



PHOTOS BY MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Each summer, Shear delight

Shaggy Scotts Pines beckon a pruner from St. Louis

BY CRAIG HENRY  
Staff Writer

— SIOUX FALLS  
**B**en Chu steps away from a 20-year-old Scotts Pine, wipes the sweat from his face onto his T-shirt, and puts his cigarette on the rock wall beside him. He sizes up the newly pruned tree and says, "Well, that one's done."

Chu holsters his red-and-white handled Japanese pruning shears, grabs his ladder

with one sap-covered hand and his Merit menthol cigarettes with the other and starts off toward his "next victim."

"I'm just trying to get a little more light to the interior of the tree," Chu said. "Just working with what has grown since the previous year."

For the past 15 years, Chu has spent three days every summer in Sioux Falls to prune the pines at the Shoto-Teien Japanese Gardens at Terrace Park. His regular job is in St. Louis where he has worked as a horticulture supervisor at the Missouri Botanical

**Ben Chu, top, travels from St. Louis each summer to prune Scotts Pines at Terrace Park. Diane Marsh, 46, of Sioux Falls, holds flowers that her grandson picked for her at the Japanese garden.**

Garden for 24 years.

Working outdoors is something Chu said he enjoys, "You know, I went to school to work with plants, not to manage people."

His clothes are simple—a pair of scuffed-up brown work boots, dirty khakis, a green Whitaker Music Festival T-shirt and what he calls his South Dakota hat. It's nothing more than a green fishing hat with a pin

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GARDEN  
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## Blocked road now, better plumbing on its way

*Construction on Dakota  
due for October finish*

BY PATRICK L. DELABRUE  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION** — Road construction worker Jeff Webb wasn't bothered by the heavy stink of hot tar or the choking, gray clouds of concrete dust that mushroomed around him as he cut grooves into the intersection of Main and Dakota streets.

"I used to work on a farm with a lot of pigs," Webb said last week when temperatures reached the mid-eighties. "So the smell of tar doesn't bother me at all."

### Dust clouds and ditches

■ Improvements include new bike paths, sewer pipes  
■ Cost: \$1.6 million  
■ Project began in mid-April.  
■ Crews hope to finish in time for trick-or-treaters.

Webb, 34, who has worked for Sioux City Engineering for seven years, is part of a road construction project that has torn up Dakota from Main Street to Cherry Street. The \$1.6 million project began in mid-April. It will add bike paths, a new water main, new sanitary sewer pipes and improve the storm sewer, said John Sulzbach, vice president of Sioux City Engineering.

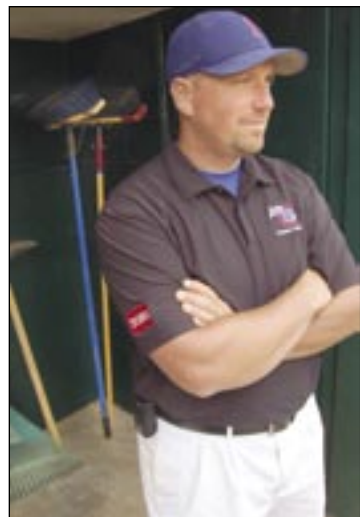
Residents who live in the vicinity look forward to the end of the noise, dust and grit of construction to a wider, smoother Dakota Street.

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CONSTRUCTION  
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DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Wade Mount of Vermillion uncoils new water line in a trench on Dakota Street. The construction spans three city blocks and is scheduled to reach Cherry Street.**



SARAH WELLIVER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Groundskeeper Chris Schlosser.**

## Groundskeeper's office a pristine field of dreams

BY JAMES C. FALCON BERGH  
Staff Writer

**DES MOINES, Iowa** — Chris Schlosser's tan is a time-card burned into his flesh.

It testifies to the 12 to 16 hours he devotes daily to the field at Principal Park where the Iowa Cubs play baseball. The field is nearly 3 acres, 2 1/2 of which is grass, and Schlosser's

job as head groundskeeper is to keep it immaculate.

"He talks to every blade of grass," said Michael Gartner, owner of the Cubs.

Schlosser has tended the field for seven seasons. On his busier days, he arrives at 5:30 a.m., well before the sun rises. On the Sunday morning the Round Rock Express were to play the Cubs, Schlosser and

some of his crew of 15 began by taking the 23,650-square-foot tarp off the field. The forecast for the previous night had predicted rain. "We have to get the tarp off before sunrise," Schlosser said. "It might burn the field."

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GROUNDSKEEPER  
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# Burst valve lands campus in 'delicate situation'

*A leaky toilet, a large seep, then USD water shut off*

BY MEGAN GORDON  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION** — Water was shut off for most of the University of South Dakota campus from about 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday while workers repaired a valve that broke in Julian Hall on Sunday.

“We had a major blowout,” said Don Hart, acting foreman of USD’s Facilities Management office.

It was first reported Sunday night when a Julian Hall employee called the campus Public Safety office about a leaky toilet in the building, said Mikal Boughton, a Public Safety officer.

Hart said that internal breakage occurred in the water main at Julian Hall. After initial repairs, water continued to seep through the valve, ultimately requiring emergency shut-off of water to 16 campus buildings.

Paul’s Plumbing of Vermillion worked with the University Tuesday morning to fix the problem. It was a delicate situation because many high-voltage electrical lines are near the site of the break, said Paul Hagenbuch, owner of Paul’s Plumbing.



Ed Pickett, 52, and Paul Hagenbuch, 50, both of Vermillion, close a broken water valve.

MARTINA ROSE LEE ■  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hart said, workers had to do a lot of digging by hand while replacing the valve to avoid the power lines.

The problem was exacerbated, Hart said, because water from those buildings drained into a hole outside Julian, where workers

tried pumping it out and fixing the pipe.

Faculty and staff continued to work in Julian, but restrooms were open, Hart said.

“The first couple days we had to go to the South Dakota Union Building, and now we go to the med school,” said Mary

Blaschke, office manager of the Nursing School here in Julian Hall.

Campus security was keeping watch, said Denny Duin, director of Public Safety. “We make sure there aren’t any leaks or puddles,” he said.

# Garden: ‘I like to listen to the pruners.’



PHOTOS BY RUSSEL DANIELS ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Ben Chu cuts back a pine tree.

is lined with boulders, a giant Cottonwood tree, hostas, azaleas and other plant life. Next to another 20-year-old pine, he sets up his 10-foot aluminum ladder.

“Time is limited,” Chu said.

His current victim looks more like an oversized bonsai than a Scotts Pine. Chu said he pruned it directional when it was younger, so that it would have a curve in it as it continued to grow.

“It’s not like pruning just any old thing,” Chu said. “It’s more sculptural and like an art.”

He said the purpose of pruning a tree directionally is to give it the look of being an aged tree and making it appear to have survived in harsh conditions.

“It’s kind of funny,” Chu said. “In a society where everyone is so hell-bent on staying young, I’m here accentuating the age in a tree.”

It’s now after 4 p.m.—quitting time for the day. Chu holsters his shears, climbs down from his ladder and backs away to check out his progress. He’s not finished with this tree yet, but plans to start on it first thing in the morning.

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bearing the shape and name of the state.  
Chu found his way to Sioux Falls after the Shoto-Teien Japanese Gardens Inc. board of directors contacted him. His mentor was Dr. Koichi Kawana, the designer of both the Shoto-Teien Japanese Gardens and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Chu said after Kawana died, the board called his office looking for someone to pick up where Kawana left off.  
“They knew St. Louis was one of his favorite gardens,” Chu said.

Leaving a blanket of pine branches under the tree, Chu walks away. Young women in short-sleeve shirts from the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Department drive up in a golf cart shortly after to clean up his mess.  
Chu occasionally talks with passers-by and gives a brief horticulture lesson. Other than that, he has nothing but the trees and plants and wildlife to keep him company.  
“I like to listen to the pruners,” Chu said. “You know, clip-clip-clip.”  
He walks the winding sidewalk, which



## Native Journal

Reported, written, photographed and edited by students of the American Indian Journalism Institute, a joint academic program of the Freedom Forum and the University of South Dakota. Contents are protected by U.S. copyright laws. All rights reserved.

Al Neuharth Media Center  
555 Dakota St.  
Vermillion, S.D. 57069  
e-mail:  
jmarsh@freedomforum.org  
605-677-6315  
www.freedomforum.org

**Students:** Chad Avery, Navajo; James C. Falcon Bergh, Turtle Mountain Chippewa; James Culbertson, Turtle Mountain Chippewa; Russel Daniels, Ho-Chunk/Navajo; Patrick Delabrué, Menominee; Troy Doney, Assiniboine; Danielle Ducheneaux, Lower Brule; Ishmael Elias, Seminole/Cherokee; Megan Gordon, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Craig Henry, Cherokee; Baxter Holmes, Choctaw; Mary Hudetz, Crow; Tesina Jackson, Cherokee; Martina Lee, Navajo; Bronson Peshlakai, Navajo; Rachelle Todea, Navajo; Terria Smith, Torres Martinez DCI; Devin Wagner, Crow; Wayne Smith Jr., Turtle Mountain Chippewa; Sara Welliver, Metis

**Publisher:** Jack Marsh, executive director, Al Neuharth Media Center

**AIJI faculty and Native Journal editors:** Eric Bolin, Steve Chin, Michael Downs, Bill Elsen, Val Hoepfner, Kelly Johnson, Denny McAuliffe, Katja Stromnes-Elias, Scott Winter



PHOTOS AND STORY  
BY MARTINA ROSE LEE

Counterclockwise from top left: Marie Gray, 79, of Vermillion waters the garden at the Sergeant House, where she has lived for more than 23 years. Gray tastes a mulberry. “My brothers would put a mulberry on their arms and slap it. It would make a red heart,” Gray said. Her historic house, on the corner of Clark and Yale streets, was built in 1840.

# Living history

## growing garden



VERMILLION — She wore a latex glove on one hand and a rubber-cleaning glove on the other. She stopped, hose in her hand, looking for ones she had missed. She spotted it and moved to it quickly. Bending down, she watered the overlooked plant. The garden glowed around her as if to show their appreciation to their dutiful caretaker.

Marie Gray, 79, of Vermillion has been a homeowner for 43 years and a resident for over 23 years. Her house, also known as the Sergeant House, is located in the Vermillion historic district.

The history of the house dates back to 1840 when the house was first built. It has changed hands many times, from a businessman, to a sergeant and finally a nurse. This nurse then turned the house into Vermillion’s first hospital. A replica building was built next door as an addition to the hospital.

Gray and her ex-husband bought the house in 1963. She has lived there on and off over the next 43 years, often renting to local college students. In 1983, she moved back to Vermillion and has been here ever since.

She runs her hand over the stone steps and smiles. “These steps are older than my house,” she says. She looks over her garden, proud of her accomplishment. She picks up her hose, bends down and finishes watering.

## Construction: Chaos and obstructions up and down Dakota Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

They’ll have to wait. Construction began in mid-April, Sulzbach said, and likely will last until Halloween.

“Sure, there’s a lot of dust and dirt,” said 81-year-old Dakota Street resident Robert Brown. “But if you’re going to have improvements, you have to live through it.”

Brown said he has lived at the same house on Dakota Street since he was 19 and this is the first construction project he’s seen in his sixty-two years living in the neighborhood.

“Dakota has always been a noisy street, so the noise doesn’t bother me,” Brown said. “It was just a shame to see my neighbor’s two huckleberry trees come down.”

The construction project also lead to road detours causing increased traffic and caused bottlenecks.

Linda Hawley, a 15-year veteran of the U.S. Postal Service, knows the perils of traffic congestion in the neighborhood.

“The traffic is terrible,” Hawley said. “I’ve seen about 15 close accidents around here. One truck left a rubber mark about five feet long.”

True to the post office creed, Hawley still makes her rounds delivering mail through back alleys, zig-zagging a maze of unused sewer pipes.

“It is kind of dangerous out here,” Hawley said. “I’m thinking about asking for a helmet.”

Postal workers aren’t the only ones having difficulty in the construction zone.

Mike Thompson, has been working for Independence Waste less than two months. Just as he had learned the neighborhood’s garbage pick-up routes he had to learn it all over when construction began.

“With all the roads blocked, I have to go all the way around and find another way,” Thompson said. “I’m still getting lost.”

Despite more traffic in the construction zone, Vermillion Police haven’t increased patrols in the neighborhood, said Captain Chad Passick. But they are watching.

“We’ve been pretty lucky,” Passick said. “There hasn’t been a problem with traffic accidents.”

The response times of police units have not slowed down, Passick said. The department is working with the city and construction companies to make adjustments to plan for alternate routes, he said.

Gary Meyers, director of Vermillion Clay County Emergency Medical Services, said ambulance service also has been unaffected.

“We knew about the construction ahead of time,” he said. “We make plans for alternate routes and receive regular updates so we’ve had no problems with delays.”



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joe Johnson, right, shovels cement as Jeff Webb guides the finishing machine in Vermillion, Thursday, June 8. The men, both of Sioux City, Iowa, have been in Vermillion for three weeks and commute every day for work.

Back at the intersection of Main and Dakota, Sinclair garage mechanic Dan Kavanaugh shared his secret coping with

construction zone obstacles.

“We have a good attitude about it,” Kavanaugh said, “because we drink.”





Cubs pitcher Brandon Emanuel warms up in the bullpen with catcher Casey Kopitzke at Sunday's game against the Round Rock Express.

# Iowa Cubs Rocked by Express

By JAMES CULBERTSON  
Staff Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — Temperatures in the 50s weren't cold enough to ice the boys from Texas as the Round Rock Express edged the Iowa Cubs, 6-5, Sunday.

"The cold weather is pretty tough on the body," said Mike Rodriguez, Round Rock's center fielder. "We don't get that much at home."

Even though the weather was colder than usual for a June day, an announced crowd of 9,951 showed up for the game.

The close win improved Round Rock's record to 36-27, good for second place in the American Southern Division of the Triple A Pacific Coast League. Iowa fell to 27-36.

Round Rock started the game with two singles, a double and a triple giving the Express a 2-0 lead. By the third inning, it was 4-1.

The Cubs fought through a couple of Little League mistakes and unpredictable winds and tied the game by the fifth inning.

Neither team scored in the fifth, and in the sixth the Cubs brought in right-handed reliever Federico Baez to face Rodriguez. Rodriguez connected on a fastball — sending it past the 335 feet sign in right field — for his second home run of the season to give the Express a one-run lead.

Round Rock Manager Jackie Moore offered a caution about Rodriguez. "He'll surprise you," he said. "He's got that quiet power."

Baez (0-3) was the losing pitcher, lasting three innings. Ezequiel Astacio (2-2) pitched seven innings for the win.

Iowa starter Ryan O'Malley worked five innings and struck out seven, but the Cubs' lack of defense failed him.

"There were just too many mistakes for him to overcome," said Iowa Manager Mike Quade. Sunday's game, he said, was "probably our sloppiest defensive game that I can remember all year."

The team's previous meeting, April 25, was postponed by rain in the sixth inning with the score, 1-1. They resumed the game on Saturday, and the Express won 2-1 in the 13th inning. Then they played the regularly scheduled game for seven innings by mutual consent. The Cubs won.

"These two clubs, they go at each other well," Moore said. "Every time we come here,

every time we play them, it's a dogfight."  
— Patrick L. Delabrué and Baxter Holmes contributed to this report.

24 hours, 3 ballgames

It was a chilly afternoon, and the players from the Cubs and Express were worn out after the previous night when they finished a game that started two months ago.

Bad weather on April 25 forced umpires to postpone the game until the next time the teams met at Principal Park. On Saturday, the game resumed where it left off, a 1-1 tie in the sixth inning. Seven innings later, Round Rock won, 2-1.

The players got a 45-minute break before the regularly scheduled game, the second of a three-game series. This time, the Cubs won, 2-1. The game ended about 10:30 p.m., said Michael Gartner, owner of the Cubs.

Most of the players didn't leave Principal Park until about 11 p.m. and had to be back at the stadium at 10 a.m. for Sunday's game, said Michael Restovich, right fielder for the Cubs.

"It's part of what we do," he said. "But we still got the hits."

In the first inning, Restovich missed a popfly to right field, which later allowed Mike Rodriguez to score the first run. They also had trouble in the fourth inning when Restovich, Felix Pie and Augie Ojeda all missed another popfly in center field.

"You never know how that's going to affect a team," Quade said.

When teams play so many games in 24 hours, their pitchers get tired, Moore said.

Pitcher Ezequiel Astacio "went a little longer then he normally did," he said. Astacio pitched seven innings on Sunday compared with his season average of about 4 1/2 innings.

Both managers said they had no excuses for how their teams played.

"You try and adjust your schedule according to what you did yesterday," Quade said. "But there are no excuses for today."

— By Megan Gordon

Windy day, lousy play

Iowa lost after the Express scored five runs in the first four innings thanks to a sloppy Cubs defense.

"It was mostly the wind," Cubs outfielder



Richard Lewis spits out chew during the game. Some players still use tobacco despite it being banned from the minor leagues.

Michael Restovich said. "It was blowing everything back. I know I messed up early, because it was a ball I thought I could get to and normally I do, but it kept blowing away from me."

The two runs Cubs pitcher Ryan O'Malley gave up in the first inning were the first runs he had allowed during a first inning all season. Restovich and Cubs shortstop Augie Ojeda had chances to make plays early, but failed to do so.

"Those things are really inexcusable," Restovich said. "And if you look back on it, those probably lost the game."

Quade said defense had been a Cubs' strong point all year. "No matter how good you are defensively, you're going to have lapses from time to time," he said.

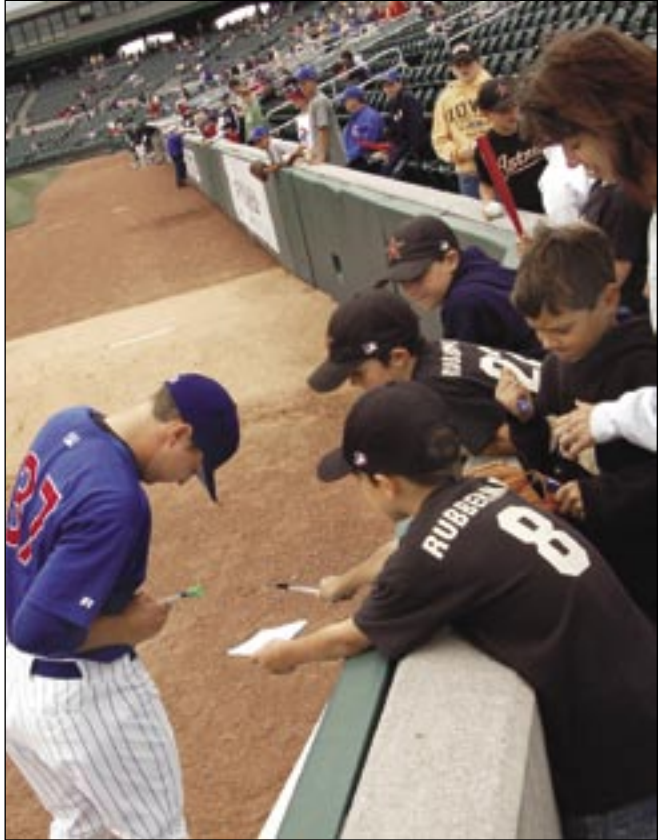
Round Rock didn't appear to have any lapses with the breezy weather and didn't record an error.

O'Malley gave up five runs on 10 hits, but there were four missed plays early that were scored as hits instead of errors. Iowa wasn't charged with an error until the ninth inning when Restovich and Mike Fontenot each made a fielding error on the same play.

— By Baxter Holmes



RUSSEL DANIELS ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



SARAH WELLIVER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



smoothly. Everything from the scoreboard to the concessions and even the admissions — if there's a computer, Schunk's responsible.

Three bases and a home

One might say that Anne Rehnstrom has lived a baseball life. In fact, she is such a fan that baseball lives with her.

For 16 years, Rehnstrom has rented a room in her house to Iowa Cubs players in need of affordable accommodations.

She lives in Urbandale, a suburb of Des Moines, and each season a player, and sometimes three, boards with her. She charges \$300 a month.

Rehnstrom's father coached baseball and three brothers played. "All I've ever known was baseball," she said.

Les Walrond, a Cubs pitcher, lives in her basement. Alan Zinter, a current first baseman for Round Rock, was a border.

However, Rehnstrom rarely sees her semi-famous housemates because her job as a marketing department assistant and events coordinator for the National Pork Board keeps her on a different schedule.

Rehnstrom first became friends with the wives, girlfriends and fiancées of the baseball players in 1990. Now she is known as the den mother for the women.

The best part, Rehnstrom said, is hearing from former boarders, "especially at Christmas."

— By James C. Falcon Bergh

## A Peek Beyond the Ballfield

By CHAD AVERY  
Staff Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — Picture Wrigley Field in the middle of Iowa.

The Iowa version has a long green scoreboard with white numbers that call the home team the "Local Boys" and the visitors the "Out of Towners."

Rick Farley is in charge of the old-fashioned scoreboard that stands above the right-center field fence.

The way Farley runs the board is influenced by the parent Chicago Cubs' ballpark, Wrigley Field.

He adds and changes numbers by opening a slot and dropping in a new number, the way it was done at Wrigley years ago.

The job isn't as easy as it sounds, he said. Sometimes Farley posts the wrong number, but so does the electronic scoreboard operator, he said.

Manual scoreboards are seeing a resurgence in popularity, Farley said. The nostalgic look adds a sense of history.

Mike Harris, a spectator, called the scoreboard a "reminder of the old days."

'Til opening pitch ...

In five months she will become Mrs. Andy Shipman, but for now, Melissa Lyons is happy being Melissa Lyons, waitress and fiancée of Andy Shipman, Cubs pitcher.

Being engaged to a baseball player gives her the chance to travel.

"I've made friends I wouldn't have made," she said. However, the life also leads to a sense that she "can't live a normal life" because of the comings-and-goings of baseball. Lyons has lived in Kansas City, Mo. (her home town), Jackson, Tenn., and now Des Moines. She prefers Des Moines because it's close to family.

The moves, which take place about every six months, may next take the couple to sunny Puerto Rico. The move, however, will not deter their plans of marriage in Kansas City on Nov. 4.

— By James C. Falcon Bergh

Proud to make the cut

"O! say can you" ... sing?

Andy Piester, 28, of Des Moines sang the national anthem Sunday. The challenge scared the Iowa State graduate.

"I'm almost always nervous that I'll start on the wrong starting note," he said. "Like today I started too low." He thought he botched his lowest note at "last gleaming." But his wife, Amy, didn't notice.

His mother-in-law signed up Piester the first time, he said, and he liked it. But he faced stiff competition this year. About 100 others were vying for the opportunity.

Some were weeded out by the ballpark's standards. People must keep in tune, know the words and sing the anthem in under one minute and 15 seconds, Kenny Houser, Iowa Cubs' national anthem coordinator said. Or they "will have no chance."

Occasionally children's choirs and soloists as young as 8 will perform.

Singing the anthem at Principal Park has its perks. The best thing, Piester said, was "my parents tuned on to the webcast in Boulder, Colorado, to watch me."

— By Rachelle Todea

Full bellies, empty wallets

Drew Doornenbal, 10, from Ankeny, Iowa, sat with his parents and brother at the baseball game munching on peanuts, Dip N Dots, hot dogs, and chips and salsa. Danny Doornenbal, Drew's father, had spent \$40 for the snacks, but was ready to return to the concession for more.

"The hot dogs are awesome," Drew said.

People spend a lot of money on food at games, but it does not seem to bother them. An informal survey Sunday showed that families spent \$20 to \$60 on food.

"The food is pricey," Danny said. "Drinks are way too expensive."

One fan disagreed. "It's not really expensive," Chad Johnson said.

Johnson was at the game with his wife and three children, each using one hand for a hot dog, loaded with ketchup, and the

## Groundskeeper: Schlosser tends to ballfield's every blade

FROM PAGE ONE

Mowing the field takes Schlosser and 10 assistants 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Schlosser and his crew cut the grass to show different patterns visible to the fans, including stars, stripes and — on Sunday — a three-toned checkerboard. In the field are three varieties of blue grass, Schlosser said, each with its respective qualities: "one so we can cut a little shorter, one is for color, and one is for the recovery."

In whatever time remains before the game, Schlosser and his crew tend the adjoining outside grounds and a 50-acre soccer complex, as well as clean out the dugouts and the pits.

Weather can be unpredictable and, Schlosser

said, "the biggest pain in the butt." Another cause of stress is overuse of the field, for example when the park is rented for other events such as the Iowa High School Athletic Association baseball tournament. More play means more damage to the grass and more work for Schlosser.

However, the pros of the job outweigh the cons. "I love what I do," Schlosser said. "My office is out on the outfield, all by myself."

Schlosser loves his job so much he recently turned down an offer to become groundskeeper for the New York Mets at Shea Stadium. The job at Shea would have limited his creativity in making outfield designs and would have

placed more restrictions on how he did his job, he said. The Mets wouldn't let him bring his Iowa crew, he said, and he worried that the union workers in New York would have been difficult to manage.

But devotion played a part, too. "The field wasn't as good as it is here," he said.

"I take a lot of pride in what we do and how we do it," Schlosser said. Working at Shea, he said, is more of a job. "You can tell the difference when you have people that really care against the people that really don't."

"If you're going to leave a job that you love and really love working here, it has to be a better job. And that's what it came down to."



# Native journalist seeks opportunities in West

BY RACHELLE TODEA  
Staff Writer

**SIOUX FALLS** – Job Wanted. Benefits must include a bigger media market and Southwest location offering a fragrance of sagebrush.

At least that's what Andy Harvey said he'd like as he looks for a new job. News of his job hunt will disappoint many of his fans in South Dakota: Harvey, a Navajo, is the only American Indian TV journalist in the state.

"KELO has been good to me," said Harvey in a telephone interview from Albuquerque, N.M. His two-year contract with KELO-TV expires at the end of June, but he will work at the station's Rapid City bureau month-to-month until someone hires him, he said.

"They've taken a chance on me," said Harvey of KELO. He said he cannot get used to the fact that he's a reporter. "I still feel like the little intern, still struggling."

Before working in South Dakota, Harvey, 29, was a reporter for the local television station in Flagstaff, Ariz. He has had seven



**Television journalist Andy Harvey is the only Native reporter on television in South Dakota. Harvey's contract with KELO will expire soon.**

ALLIE HOSTLER ■  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

years of experience and has won awards and fellowships, he said.

Harvey said Native journalists need news directors like Mark Millage, the news director at KELO-TV in Sioux Falls, who are willing to take a chance on them.

"Stations should not hire me because I'm Native," Harvey said, "but they should help increase diversity."

His colleagues and bosses said they value Harvey not only because his stories

are good, but also because he educates the staff about Native issues.

"I enjoy working with him every day regarding his viewpoints," said Beth Jensen, executive producer at KELO-TV. "We're fortunate to have Andy on staff. He's had a great response from his viewers."

"I think finding out about his community is just part of his personality," Jensen said. "It doesn't matter that he is Navajo."

Because Harvey works by himself at

the KELO Rapid City bureau, he often has long workdays, said Dexter Gronseth, an assignment editor who communicates with Harvey daily. "He gets that interview that most folks can't get," he said. And "he's a talented photographer."

Harvey is from Shiprock, N.M., and said he was born into the Tach'iinii clan for the Ashiihi clan. On assignment for KELO, he said he is often asked, "So where are you from?" Like I'm from the area."

He said he has learned much about South Dakota but would like to move into a bigger market. Harvey said he has sent tapes to stations across the West, including Alaska. "I'm tired of putting out tape," he said.

He wants to work in Tucson, Ariz., or Albuquerque, but he's gotten "not one nibble," he said. "Southwest stations won't hire me."

"There are only a handful of Native broadcast journalists," Harvey said. "It would be nice to talk to another Native broadcaster who has gone through job searching like I'm doing now, but Natives stay in one place."

## at the movies DaVinci Code: Paint-by-numbers

### What is the outcry about?

BY TROY DONEY  
Staff Writer

It has provoked condemnations from religious leaders, been banned in China, Lebanon, Egypt, and other countries. You cannot avoid talking about the Dan Brown thriller.

Controversies aside, "The DaVinci Code" won't shatter expectations. It will barely meet them. The adaptation of the novel is faithful enough. A murder in the Louvre leads Harvard professor, Robert Langdon, played by Tom Hanks, and cryptographer, played by Audrey Tautou, into a lethal conspiracy that has the potential to shift Judeo-Christian paradigms dramatically. Or so the story goes.

Hanks looks drugged in the movie. His delivery is wooden, apathetic. When faced with revelations that the movie says would shake the very foundations of the Catholic Church, Hanks projects the monotone of a bored, half-asleep anchorman. When he isn't bored, he bumbles from obvious plot device to plot device with all the mental tenacity of a recently neutered Chihuahua.

Audrey Tautou, the female lead, also looks dazed and confused. She also suffers from perpetual boredom. When she realizes that she's the last descendant of the secret bloodline of Jesus Christ, she looks ready to yawn.

What the leads lacked, however, the supporting cast of villains made up for admirably. Ian McKellen delivered a fantastic and hammy performance as a manipulative knight. Jean Reno made a compelling character with what little screen time he was given as an overzealous police officer. Paul Bettany struck a great balance of menace and pity as a ruthless but tormented albino monk. It's a wonder how a stellar set of antagonists could have such underwhelming heroes.

The directing by Ron Howard was hit-and-miss also. It leaves the audience feeling like livestock, being led by the nose from one gotcha moment to the next. Not trusting the audience to work things out without help, the movie frequently spells out the twists, quite literally.

The sets were beautiful, like scenes at the Louvre, Saint-Sulpice in Paris, and Temple Church in London. The story unfolded evenly, yes.

Ultimately, "The DaVinci Code" doesn't live up to any expectations hoisted upon it, negative or positive. The final product is lukewarm, not thrilling enough to engage audiences and not groundbreaking enough to justify the religious outcry that gave it more box office revenue.

Go read a book instead. Not that book!

I give "The DaVinci Code" 3 frybreads out of 5.

### Worth a matinee? Indeed, it is

BY TERRIA SMITH  
Staff Writer

A well put together film, using the work of Leonardo Da Vinci as a base, "The Da Vinci Code" makes for an entertaining and thoughtful journey.

Tom Hanks as Professor Robert

Langdon and Audrey Tautou as Sophie Neveu are the main characters in this adventure of historical possibility. The characters are believable enough to make the story work. The most notable performance comes from the creepy and tortured Silas, played by Paul Bettany.

The film is careful in giving viewers a good understanding of its alternative philosophy of who Jesus Christ and the Holy Grail were. It

leaves little room for question, with thorough explanations and ideas.

The one problem is the action. Langdon and Neveu spend far too much time escaping life-threatening situation. But it could be attributed to "divine intervention" in this case.

Considering the viewer has an open mind and a relative understanding of Christianity, the movie is interesting. It is easy to see how the deeply religious find this film to be blasphemous. The Catholic Church is portrayed as manipulative and deceitful; being involved in the cover-up of deeper truths.

As with most movies that challenge organized religion, it only fed the interest of moviegoers, making it a success in the box office (it has made more than \$144 million so far). It has lived up to all of the interest it received and is worth seeing. 2 1/2 Frybreads. (Good, but you can wait for the video)



Paul Bettany and Audrey Tautou

## Breaking up is hard to watch on the big screen

BY MARY HUDETZ  
Staff Writer

"The Break-Up," starring Vince Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston, will disappoint its viewers this summer. The dark romantic comedy, which masqueraded as a date movie in previews, is actually a failed and self-ish attempt at writing by Vaughn to explore the different stages of a relationship.

The film starts with humor and authenticity when Gary, played by Vaughn, and Brooke, played by Aniston, meet at Chicago's Wrigley Field. However, if viewers knew this was the film's climax, they probably would not stick around for the rest.

Most of the character development occurs in opening credits filled with feel-good music and photographs of the couple's better days.

The bulk of the film's intimacy occurs in the opening credits. Somehow Vaughn and the screenwriters failed to connect the characters to each other and to the audience.

The first of the couple's yelling matches is actually well written. However, the scenes become redundant as the film continues, especially because Vaughn's character has an average of four monologues per argument. Aniston's character is completely drowned out.

The couple's fights are also weakened by the comedy of Brooke's flamboyant brother and her eccentric boss. It really seems there is no objective or mission in writing this story. The audience is forced to experience comedy and drama together without any fulfillment.

Try not to bring a date to this move unless you want to break up.

Rating: 1 FRYBREAD, for the humor.

## Viewers left longing for schticks

BY BAXTER HOLMES  
Staff Writer

"The Break-Up" stars Vince Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston who play Gary Grobowski and Brooke Meyers, the everyday couple who are in love but struggle to communicate with each other. The film opens with a montage of how the two met and fell in love. But, as happens in some relationships, the man becomes complacent. The give-and-take relationship transforms into two ruthless pit bulls fighting over a steak, each unwilling to spare a morsel.

The Chicago setting fits the romantic feel to the film, especially the opening scene at Wrigley Field where the couple met.

Vaughn and Aniston are believable as Gary and Brooke, especially in the fight that causes the breakup, but they don't seem to fit well in this film. As realistic as it was, it is hard to see Vaughn in the leading role as he has had more success in supporting roles such as in "Old School" and in "Mr. & Mrs. Smith." Aniston plays her character well, but bad pairing with Vaughn sours her performance.

One of the poorer parts of the film is its predictability. It shouldn't come as a surprise that Gary hops on the couch with a cold beer and checks ESPN rather than helping with the dishes. It went so far it almost seemed as though Will Ferrell would jump out of the closet naked and screaming with a blowup doll. The film follows romantic comedy structure to a tee and the plot is like any episode of "The Simpsons."

Jon Favreau re-unites with Vaughn from 1996's "Swingers" and fits the role of "honest best friend" well. His comic relief following fights adds spice to a rather bland romantic comedy such as the scene where Favreau asks whether he can "dispose" of Brooke's newest date.

This movie receives a two-star rating. Although it was entertaining, a bad actor-actress pairing mixed with a predictable plot took away from what could have been an enjoyable romantic comedy.



# AP bureau chief fights for fairness

By MARY HUDETZ  
Staff Writer

**STIOUX FALLS** – Hogs taught Tena Haraldson a valuable lesson about journalism.

Haraldson and her father, a pig farmer, watched an evening news program that presented a drop in hog prices as good news, but her father's contrary opinion showed Haraldson that a headline could not jump to conclusions.

Good news is another story, she said. Haraldson, the AP's South Dakota and Nebraska bureau chief, said she has learned to understand the importance of unbiased reporting.

Her decision to remain neutral in her career has led to members of opposing parties to disagree with her work, she said. "If both sides are mad at you," she said, "you probably hit the middle."

Journalists have a responsibility to the public to "find the truth and tell it," Haraldson said. She admits she was terrified by the pressure to be accurate in her early days at the AP as a livestock reporter.

Haraldson reports less these days. Her

responsibilities include overseeing the print, photo, and multimedia aspects of her office, which employs three writers and a news editor, she said. She also works for more openness in government and better cultural accuracy in reporting.

Her efforts include involvement with the Freedom of Information Coalition and her position as vice president for South Dakotans for Open Government, she said.

South Dakota is one of the only states without an effective procedure regarding openness in government, Haraldson said.

"It shouldn't be ignored or it will be gone," she said. Freedom of information should be kept on the front burner.

An effective observance of the Freedom of Information Act could improve quality of life on Indian reservations, too, she said.

Freedom of information is not always observed on reservations, Haraldson said, as a result, too much reporting on reservations is based on opinion. Tribal governments generally restrict access for mainstream and tribal reporters, she said, so their access to Native people comes through the federal court system, which is open.

"The easiest thing for non-Native reporters to cover are the courts," Haraldson said. The result often is crime stories and other

unbalanced news coverage that put Native Americans in a bad light.

"I know there's a whole culture out there that's rarely represented," Haraldson said.

Haraldson's office works to balance coverage on Native American issues in her region with stories outside of federal courts, she said. Her office has covered bison restocking on reservations and controversial commercial development near the sacred site of Bear Butte outside of Sturgis, she said.

This will be the fifth summer an intern from American Indian Journalism Institute (AIJI) will work in Haraldson's office.

Eric Bolin, a Cherokee student at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., is working for the second summer in Haraldson's AP bureau.

It is the responsibility of news professionals to give internships and train those who are entering the field, she said.

"I learned more ... in six weeks here as an intern last year than I did in college," Bolin said.

# Motor City sportswriter settles in Sioux Falls

By JAMES CULBERTSON  
Staff Writer

**STIOUX FALLS** – Stu Whitney is a big-city man who found a niche at a small-town newspaper.

Whitney, 39, said he did not know what to expect when he moved to Sioux Falls to accept a reporting position at the Argus Leader, just that he wanted to be a sportswriter.

He had come to South Dakota with an ambition to move on to "bigger and brighter opportunities." Fourteen years, a wife and two children later, he remains in Sioux Falls and is proud of the reputation he's built.

"Some people are so busy moving around to different places that they never really make an impact anywhere," Whitney said. "It's nice to become an authority in an area rather than constantly moving around."

Whitney's penchant for sports began in high school where he played varsity basketball, football and hockey for Grosse Pointe South High School outside of Detroit.

"I realized I was not going to be a professional athlete, but I wanted to keep my hand in athletics in some manner," Whitney said. "It's not the most lucrative profession in the world. I mean, you're not going to

drive around a Porsche or anything, but that's never been that important to me."

Whitney attended Michigan State University in East Lansing, where he covered football and men's basketball for the campus newspaper, The State News. There, he was more serious about becoming a sportswriter.

Whitney moved to Sioux Falls, S.D., in 1992, married his wife, Lisa, in 1994, and has two children, Emily, 6, and Jacob, 3.

Whitney's first job at the Argus Leader was as a general assignment reporter. He said he has battled stereotypes.

"You're just looked at as this jock-type guy who goes out and covers games for a living," Whitney said. "I consider myself to be a good reporter, too, and if you're a good reporter, you should be able to report on anything, not just sports."

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"You're just looked at as this jock-type guy who goes out and covers games for a living," Whitney said. "I consider myself to be a good reporter, too, and if you're a good reporter, you should be able to report on anything, not just sports."

Mick Garry, a sportswriter at the Argus Leader, said Whitney is highly respected in the newsroom.

Whitney won the Gannett Co. "Well-Done Contest" when he reported that South

Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds (R) was using state planes to fly family and friends to Pierre for his son's basketball games.

In 2003, Whitney was a finalist in the American Society of Newspaper Editors diversity writing competition for a series about the difficulties Native Americans face in competing for college scholarships.

"As far as daily news coverage [of Native issues], we probably could do a better job of that, particularly in South Dakota, which should be a leader on Native issues," Whitney said.

Whitney said he enjoys the leisurely pace at the Argus Leader. He considers himself a mentor to the younger reporters, but he added, "hopefully I'm seen as a team player."

Whitney said he has no regrets about settling down in Sioux Falls where his wife has family and works as a pharmaceutical salesperson. That is another reason he is content staying at a small newspaper, he said.

"I'm a person who likes to make an impact where they are," he said, "and I've done that here."

# New views from foreign lands

By CHAD AVERY  
Staff Writer

**STIOUX FALLS** – When Argus Leader Reporter Nestor Ramos went to Japan on vacation, he returned with new thoughts on journalism.

Ramos left three weeks ago with his Japanese girlfriend. He said he traveled for two weeks and got a sense of Japanese culture in Tokyo and surrounding towns.

"It's like going from New York to South Dakota in 200 miles," Ramos, 28, said.

He couldn't speak the language, but he communicated through his girlfriend.

"It's hard to travel without knowledge of the local language, and requiring a translator for virtually any conversation makes life difficult," Ramos said in an e-mail interview. "It made me think of the many new Americans in Sioux Falls, refugees from Africa, for example, who arrive with little or no English skills and head straight to school. Must be hard."

Japan has some English newspapers, but they are translated from Japanese, Ramos said, and sometimes with odd grammar.

He said he learned that the work habits of Japanese journalists differ from those of Americans. "The news culture there made me more conscious of the value of having access without compromising integrity," Ramos said in an e-mail interview.

Ramos had no journalism experience in high school or college. He had an English degree that he received from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Ramos began his journalism career at The Oregonian in Portland.

He is now a reporter at the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, S.D. After starting on a features beat, he now covers K-12 schools. Working with educational stories, "you really get to know your sources," he said.

Ramos is the only Latino in the Argus Leader newsroom, he said. With his background, he feels that he can better understand some ethnic communities and socio-economic groups, Ramos said.

Ramos grew up in New Haven, Conn. He said his high school didn't have a significant part in his journalism career, though he did learn skills.

"High school taught me how to read... understand sentences and the way people interpret them," Ramos said.

When Ramos isn't writing or reporting, he enjoys playing golf, watching DVDs and traveling. He takes advantage of his free time because it is limited, he said.

# Marine lives for fun at work, chooses Siouxland over NYC

By TESINA JACKSON  
Staff Writer

**STIOUX FALLS** – Some people say Jarett Bies has a dream job. On a typical workday, he goes canoeing, fishing, hunting or kayaking and gets paid for it.

People tell him "that must be pretty nice to get paid to go out to eat or to go rock climbing," said Bies, 37, of his job as a reporter at the Argus Leader writing outdoor recreation and food reviews.

He didn't realize it at the time, but he was preparing for his life in journalism by joining the Marines and working at restaurants.

Bies decided to join the Marines when he was in the fifth grade. After high school, he served in the Marines for four years. "Part of it was because of my dad," Bies said. "We both had a big interest."

When he was in the Marines, Bies called

himself a "ghostwriter." He wrote letters for his friends to send home. "People knew I was a good writer because they thought the things I wrote were entertaining," he said.

His platoon trained in Hawaii. During an exercise, a mortar platoon on the other side of a hill fired seven rounds of friendly fire on Bies's platoon.

"I was sitting on the hill watching it happen," he said. "I was pretty much face-to-face ... and it was pretty horrifying."

Two Marines died and 17 were injured. "They were my friends; people in my platoon," Bies said.

Coming back to civilian life, Bies enrolled at the University of South Dakota, where he started working for the school paper, The Volante.

"That's how I got started, and it was good experience for me," he said.

In his senior year, Bies became the managing editor in 1994. He didn't take any

mass communication or journalism classes at USD.

"All the journalism I learned was from working at the paper," he said.

Bies moved to Minnesota to pursue a graduate degree at St. Cloud State University. He said he majored in English literature in 20th-century America and wrote a military drama.

Bies said he had planned to move to New York and make it big working for a newspaper. He didn't go.

"It was mostly because I had been away for 14 years," Bies said. "There was a part of me that wanted to stay."

After working at several restaurants, Bies decided to work for a newspaper again. He was frustrated about not using his education.

"I was tired of being a 'master's waiter'," he said.

Now, all his restaurant experience has

come in handy. He does food reviews for the Argus Leader, where he started working in 1999. His first assignment was writing obituaries. Some stories that Bies did were a little emotional.

"A number of stories were some sad things," he said. Bies recalled an obituary he wrote for a 3-year-old boy who was hit by a car. "In stories like that, I don't think you would be human if it didn't soak in."

Bies lives in Sioux Falls. "I'm a little bit older than most people here, having done some other things prior to the paper," he said.

Writing about outdoor recreation was Bies's idea. "It developed organically," he said. "I started pitching ideas that direction."

"Yeah, I would say that the pay isn't dreamy, but it is nice to write about things I take seriously," he said. "It's kind of a thrill."





DANIELLE DUCHENEAUX ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



W.L. SMITH ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY DEVIN WAGNER  
Staff Writer

**YANKTON** – The dew was still clinging to the grass when the first bikers headed north.

975 cyclists left Yankton bound for Freeman on Monday in the second annual Tour de Kota. After five days, the cyclists will end up in Milbank having ridden 462 miles over the rolling hills of eastern South Dakota.

“We both live in the city and it’s fun to get back to the earthy roots,” said Linda Tacke, 54, of Minneapolis, Minn.

The path to Milbank is dotted with many small farming communities. The towns offer participants water, food and bike repair along with a dose of friendly South Dakota hospitality.

“It’s part of the States, and it gives us a chance to meet people from all over – New Jersey, New York, California,” said Dawn Reinicke, 44, of Sioux Falls.



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Rolling Prairie

## Tour de Kota hits the road



SARAH WELLIVER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clockwise from top left: A duck dodges a group of cyclists leaving Yankton. Participants prepare to depart from Riverside park. A cyclist bikes uphill along U.S. Highway 52. One rider brushes the tall grass alongside the highway. Cyclists line up to grab homemade snacks. Dean Hanke, 60, of Fort Atkinson, Wis., gets ready to leave Yankton. A cyclist drinks from a water bottle as she heads toward Lesterville.



RUSSEL A. DANIELS ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# NAJA house shops in D.C. and Oklahoma

BY RACHELLE TODEA  
Staff writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — The Native American Journalists Association has begun exploring offers to relocate its headquarters to places like Oklahoma and Washington, D.C., and its members will vote in August whether to move, according to NAJA officials.

"We don't have much space here," said Kim Baca, NAJA interim executive director. NAJA seems to be outgrowing its three offices in the Freedom Forum's Al Neuharth Media Center at the University of South Dakota.

Jack Marsh, executive director of the Al Neuharth Media Center, said there are limitations for NAJA's growth in the building, but not on the USD campus. "If NAJA

needs more space, then the university may be able to provide that," he said.

Said USD Vice President of Academic Affairs Royce C. Engstrom: "I want to know what NAJA needs to be here."

The group is eyeing four possible sites, including:

- The University of Oklahoma in Norman where a Native journalism professor with longstanding ties to NAJA and

USD teaches.

- The National Congress of American Indians in Washington, D.C., where plans for an Embassy of Tribal Nations are in the works.

- Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla., which is located in the heart of Cherokee country, has voiced an invitation to NAJA.

PLEASE SEE NAJA, PAGE 10

## Police sketch provokes race debate

### Police chief defends wanted posters hung in Vermillion

BY JAMES CULBERTSON  
Staff writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — Some Native Americans in Vermillion are waiting for an apology for the way Police Chief Art Mabry handled a suspected rape case last year.

They may end up waiting a long time.

"There is nothing to apologize for," Mabry said.

Last November, a man broke into a woman's home and attempted to rape her, according to police records. The woman gave police a detailed description of her attacker and insisted he was a Native American, Mabry said. But the sketch, which some said was too ambiguous, caused some Native American men to be singled out and unfairly scrutinized, said Cori Bazemore, a Native American student at the University of South Dakota.

Last December, a panel discussion to address the incident was held with Vermillion police, community members and two co-founders of the American Indian Movement, who called for cultural sensitivity training for police.

Still, Mabry said he stands by his response to the incident.

"There was no reason to doubt our victim," Mabry said.

PLEASE SEE SUSPECT, PAGE 8



SARAH WELLIVER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ray Hofman fits a recent photo of a veteran among 700 in the Clay County Courthouse.

## A place on the wall

BY CRAIG HENRY  
Staff writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — Sitting above the ruins of Babylon, Dana Stockland poses for a photograph.

Dump. Upload. Click.

As simple as that the image is sent more than 6,000 miles from Al Hillah, Iraq, to Vermillion, S.D. There it will stay at his mother's house at 113 N. Pine St. for two years before it is sent to the desk of Ray Hofman, Clay County veterans service officer.

It will be on that desk for more than a week, waiting to join nearly 700 other veterans' photos on the walls of Room 203 of the Clay County Courthouse at 211 W. Main Street.

The sidewalk around the courthouse is lined with hackberry trees. Some have yellow ribbons; some don't. A marble veterans' memorial is to the east, bearing the names of men and women from Clay County who served their country.

Up a set of five more steps, the doors to 211 W. Main St. lead to an even more impressive memorial.

Tucked away on the west side of the second floor is a door decorated with a blue-star banner, a credit card-sized sticker of the American flag and a yellow ribbon. Beyond Room 203 is where U.S. Army Spc. Stockland's photo sits — waiting.

PLEASE SEE VETERANS, PAGE 2

## Indian grant money went to wrong students

### Group aspiring to tribal recognition advised schools

BY CRAIG HENRY  
Staff writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — The U.S. Department of Education allowed more than \$1 million in federal grant money meant for Native American students to fall into the hands of some Arkansas schools that weren't entitled to the funds.

"That's what upset me so much," said Kathleen Wesho-Bauer, a volunteer at the American Indian Heritage Support Center in Bentonville, Ark. "That's money that should have gone to legitimate Indians."

The Lost Cherokee Nation of Arkansas and Missouri Inc., a nonprofit organization attempting to become a recognized tribe, advised several Arkansas schools in applying for the Indian education grants.

The U.S. Department of Education said that advice was wrong and some schools are now returning the money they were awarded. Others already have used the funds.

According to an e-mail to Native Journal from Greg Wiggins with the department's press office, all information regarding the Lost Cherokee and the Arkansas schools has been sent to the Department of Education's Office of the Inspector General, the arm that investigates and audits the department's business.

Other than that, no one at the department, including at the Inspector General's office, was willing to comment on the Lost Cherokee or the grants.

The Lost Cherokee deny giving any of the schools false information.

"We helped them fill out the applications," said W.K. Maxwell, treasurer for the Lost Cherokee. "The guidelines that (the government) put out is basically the guidelines that everybody went by."

Ted Beck, federal program coordinator for the Wonderview School District in northeastern Arkansas, said Wonderview received \$26,896 by following Lost Cherokee advice. Beck said the advice, for which they had agreed to pay a 5 percent administrative fee to the Lost Cherokee, was inaccurate.

PLEASE SEE CHEROKEE, PAGE 10

## 'Hell of a deal' connects Nebraska town to Vermillion

BY MARY HUDETZ  
Staff writer

**NEWCASTLE, Neb.** — At first glance, Newcastle's 271 residents don't appear to have benefited much from the nearly five-year-old, \$22 million bridge that connects their town to a world more modern than theirs.

Newcastle is a town with no ATM. There are no cellphone towers or even a signal unless you go to the hill overlooking the Missouri River, about five miles out of town, said Len Marron, owner of the town's only gas station.

Businesses on Main Street show signs of

neglect. On one corner, a store looked abandoned from the outside, but the door was unlocked. There was no one inside. Visitors were able to walk freely around a large showroom filled wall to wall with old junk: farm parts, a dollhouse, exercise equipment, decades-old posters.

Hair by Mary has just one client at 10:30 Friday morning. Two of Main Street's three bars are open. At Lyle's Bar, two regulars are wasting away the morning, getting wasted.

At the other end of the block, several drivers fill up at one of two vintage pumps

PLEASE SEE BRIDGE, PAGE 4



SARAH WELLIVER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With the bridge, Newcastle, Neb., residents can travel 13 miles to shopping, university classes and "good-looking broads."





PHOTOS BY SARAH WELLIVER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Veterans: Photos date to the Civil War

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

There are always photographs of captains, generals and other high-ranking officers. This is what inspired former Clay County Veterans Service Officer David Wherry to start adding photos of soldiers to the walls of the Veterans Service Office — regardless of rank.

Starting in 2001, Wherry slowly added more and more photos. By the time Ray Hofman took over in 2002, Wherry had amassed about 300 photos of Clay County soldiers dating back to the Civil War and the War of 1812.

“We just ran newspaper articles inviting all Clay County veterans and their families to bring up photographs,” Hofman said. “All we required is that they were in uniform.”

Hofman said they originally took 8-by-10 photos, but due to the limited space, they had to reduce the size of the photos to 5-by-7.

It’s a good thing. All of the nearly 15 foot-high walls are covered floor to ceiling. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy. Fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, grandfathers, uncles and brothers. Childhood friends, neighbors and complete strangers. All gathered together, separated only by generations, each individual black frame outlined in gold.

■■■

Dec. 3, 2004 — only a few more months. Southeast of the ruins of Babylon, in a small village just northwest of An Nasiriyah, Iraq, Dana’s brother, Chad Stockland, stands with his hands outstretched in front of a school.

A considerable number of people gather in front of the blue school building behind him. But nobody seems to notice he is even there. They’re waiting in line at the Medical Civil Affairs Project where U.S.



Army Staff Sgt. Stockland worked as a medic.

His face shows the beginnings of a smile. He shows his palms and dirty fingers.

Zoom. Focus. Snap. Another photograph to document one of the various places Stockland has visited on his 14-month deployment to Iraq. This photo will also make its way to Vermillion, and back to 113 N. Pine St.

Stockland’s mother, JoAnn, will be thankful. She will get to see another mysterious place, and an adoring face. She will be reassured that her oldest son is safe for another day.

Only a few more months.

■■■

JoAnn Stockland’s sons have been back for more than a year now. She remembers meeting them at the airport in Watertown, S.D., on Feb. 28, 2005. It seemed like one of the coldest days of that winter — 21 degrees and snowing — but she didn’t mind the weather that day. Her boys made it home safe.

She hadn’t worried about them too much. They were mainly in southern Iraq, away from most of the action. They thoughtfully refrained from telling her too many stories of missiles flying overhead



**Clockwise from top: About 700 pictures covering walls of the veteran’s office in Vermillion honor the county’s veterans. Ray Hofman positions another photo on the wall. Photos of Dana P. Stockland, left, and his brother, Chad, right, hangs in the veteran’s office.**

and explosions until after they returned home. They didn’t want their mother to worry.

“It was great,” JoAnn said. “I didn’t have to worry anymore.”

Two years before, she had read an advertisement in the Plain Talk newspaper asking for photographs for the Veterans Service Office. She wanted to add her sons’ photos to Ray Hofman’s collection but kept forgetting. Early this month she remembered and brought the photos to the courthouse.

Just one more week now.

■■■

After returning from a weeklong business trip to Minneapolis, Hofman can now

get to what’s been waiting for him.

He grabs two cement nails, a red and blue hammer and the photographs of brothers Dana and Chad Stockland.

“The trick is getting them even,” Hofman said.

He kneels down on one knee and eyes a spot on the north wall.

Clink, clink, clink.

Dana’s photo goes up, then Chad’s.

Next to a window, the Stockland brothers join the images of other men and women just like themselves. They were selfless enough to put their lives in danger for the freedom of others. Hofman realizes and appreciates that.

Standing back, looking at the photos, Hofman says, “There we go. I would say that’s pretty good.”



# Vermillion

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### 17-year-old rape suspect pleads not guilty

By **PATRICK L. DELABRUE**  
*Staff writer*

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — A 17-year-old Vermillion youth pleaded not guilty last Friday to a felony first-degree rape charge that carries a maximum penalty of life in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

The teenager, who lives on Duke Street, is accused of raping a 5-year-old girl from his neighborhood. His plea came during an arraignment in Clay County Circuit Court. Judge Arthur L. Rusch scheduled his trial to begin Aug. 14.

The teenager posted a portion of a \$5,000 surety bond and was released into his parent’s custody.

According to court records, restrictions of his release include house arrest, wearing an electronic monitoring device, having no

“UNDER SOUTH DAKOTA LAW, HE HAS TO BE PROSECUTED AS AN ADULT, BUT STILL HAS TO BE PROTECTED AS A MINOR IN A JAIL FACILITY.”

■

**ARTHUR L. RUSCH**  
*Clay County Circuit Judge*

contact with the girl or other children and leaving home only for counseling.

The teenager was released into the custody of his parents because he posted bond, is a low risk to society and is a low flight risk, Rusch said.

“Under South Dakota law, he has to be prosecuted as an adult,” Rusch said, “but still has to be protected as a minor in a jail facility.

“It’s difficult to arrange jail facilities for a minor,” he added. “They have to be kept out of sight and sound of adult prisoners.”

Clay County District Attorney Tammi

Bern said she respects Rusch’s decision to release the teenager into the custody of his parents with restrictions.

“Judge Rusch decided (the teenager) was a low flight risk, and I respect his decision,” she said.

Public Defender Phillip Peterson declined to comment.

The teenager was arrested May 26. According to court documents, Vermillion police officer Crystal Brady received a report of the teenager kissing the girl. During Brady’s investigation, the girl said she and the teenager had sexual intercourse. Brady then interviewed the suspect and arrested him. The indictment alleges the incident happened in summer 2005.

Bern, the prosecutor, and the Vermillion Police Department declined any further comment on the case.



Violations in Vermillion have fallen even as crime rates in Sioux Falls and the nation have increased. Vermillion Police Chief Art Mabry credits the Safe Ride Bus Program for less mischief. Mabry says the buses get bar patrons home at night instead of leaving them to walk through town.

DEVIN WAGNER ■  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Fewer crimes reported in Vermillion

### Tiny town defies national trend

By **PATRICK DELABRUE**  
*Staff writer*

**VERMILLION, S.D.**— While much of the nation has seen an increase in violent crime, people here live in a community where crime rates fell.

The FBI’s 2005 Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report released earlier this month indicates that overall “the nation reported an increase of 2.5 percent in the number of violent crimes brought to their attention in 2005.”

Sioux Falls is not immune to the trend. The city saw significant increases in forcible rape and robbery reported from 2004 to last year. Robberies alone almost doubled.

But the number of total crimes reported to the Vermillion Police Department has dwindled, according to statistics from the department. The most significant drops were for drug and alcohol violations.

A review of Vermillion crime statistics dating back to 2002 shows that crime here generally peaked in 2003 and has decreased since. Total crimes in Vermillion that peak year numbered 1,597 and in 2005 fell to 1,280.

Vermillion Police Chief Art Mabry attributes some of the declining numbers to the Safe Ride Bus program, which was implemented in 2004.

The Vermillion community started the Safe Ride Bus program to give patrons of downtown bars safe rides back to their homes.

“Prior to that there were a lot of mischief thefts,” Mabry said. “Ornamental things taken from people’s yards and a lot of property damage.”

“Since the Safe Ride Bus program, there have been fewer people walking back from downtown.”

Drug violations have also been significantly reduced. There were 87 reported cases of drug violations in 2002, with numbers spiking to 187 in 2003. Last year, those numbers dropped off to 79 reported drug crimes.

But Mabry said pinpointing the exact cause is difficult.

“Drug violation numbers have a tendency to go up and down,” he said. “They spike and fall for whatever reason.

“We do have drugs in Vermillion, but we don’t have a significant drug problem here. The drug of choice in Vermillion is alcohol.”

The FBI’s report does not count crimes related to alcohol use. But Sioux Falls numbers show a jump in violent crime from 2004 to last year. There were 108 reported forcible

rapes in 2004, increasing to 145 last year. Over the same time, robberies increased from 43 reported cases to 71.

Nationwide, murder and robbery showed the greatest increase from 2004-05. Murders went up 4.8 percent. Robberies increased 4.5 percent.

Elizabeth Theiss Smith, assistant professor of Criminal Justice Studies at the University of South Dakota, said the accuracy of the Uniform Crime Report is questionable every year.

“These numbers tend to fluctuate,” she said. “It could be less enforcement resulting in fewer people being arrested. The stats change based on how the law is being enforced.”

Theft, she said, is reported more often than drug violations or rape.

“People will report theft more often than other crimes because you can’t make an insurance claim without a police report.”

Drug violations and rape statistics can be misleading, Smith said, with a lot of drug and rape crimes never reported.

With drug crimes, she said, the buyers and sellers of illegal drugs won’t report each other, so more reported drug crimes don’t accurately reflect how deep drug violations run in any given community.

“In rape cases,” Smith said, “the victims carry with them a sense of shame and responsibility, and they just want to forget about it.”



## Native Journal

Reported, written, photographed and edited by students of the American Indian Journalism Institute, a joint academic program of the Freedom Forum and the University of South Dakota. Contents are protected by U.S. copyright laws. All rights reserved.

Al Neuharth Media Center  
555 Dakota St.  
Vermillion, S.D. 57069  
e-mail:  
jmarsh@freedomforum.org  
605-677-6315  
www.freedomforum.org

**Editing students:** Troy Doney, Assiniboine; Ishmael Ali Elias, Seminole/Cherokee; Bronson Peshlakai, Navajo; Terria Smith, Torres Martinez DCI

**Photography students:** Russel Daniels, Ho-Chunk/Navajo; Danielle Ducheneaux, Lower Brule; Martina Rose Lee, Navajo; W.L. Smith, Blackfeet; Devin Wagner, Crow; Sarah Welliver, Metis

**Reporting students:** Chad Avery, Navajo; James C. Falcon Bergh, Turtle Mountain Chippewa; James Culbertson, Turtle Mountain Chippewa; Patrick Delabrue, Menominee; Megan Gordon, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Craig Henry, Cherokee; Baxter Holmes, Choctaw; Mary Hudetz, Crow; Tesina Jackson, Cherokee; Rachelle Todea, Navajo

**Publisher:** Jack Marsh, executive director, Al Neuharth Media Center

**AIJI faculty and Native Journal editors:** Kevin Abourezk, Eric Bolin, Steve Chin, Michael Downs, Bill Elsen, Val Hoepfner, Kelly Johnson, Denny McAuliffe, Katja Stromnes-Elias, Scott Winter



# Bridge: \$22 million route to Vermillion and new Wal-Mart

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

at Marron's Convenience and Service, the town hub.

All appearances aside, Newcastle residents say the bridge has improved life for the town.

"The bridge is a hell of a deal," said Joe McArdle, wearing a red Eskimo Joe's T-shirt while working an air pump outside Marron's. Without citing his source, he said 77 percent of the townspeople shop in Vermillion across the river in South Dakota. "It's been a really big asset."

Newcastle residents now drive 13 miles to Vermillion for work, shopping and other needs as opposed to the 33-mile trip they once made to South Sioux City, Neb., or the 40 miles to Yankton, S.D., where another bridge crosses the Missouri River.

The half-mile bridge opened in November 2001. Of the \$22 million cost, the federal government funded half the project while South Dakota and Nebraska split the remainder.

"It should have been done 30 years ago," McArdle said, referring not only to the bridge, but also to his college years. McArdle, 53, said he would have attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion instead of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, 180 miles away, if the bridge existed in the 1970s.

Others interviewed in town echoed McArdle's praise of the bridge.

"I've been waiting for that bridge for 40 years, and now I'm too old to go to college," said Dorris Hinz, a Newcastle resident.

Three graduates of the Newcastle Public School attended the University of South Dakota in 2005, said Robin Mohr, a Newcastle resident and high school sports coach. Mohr said he knows of one 2006 graduate planning to attend this fall.

High school athletes may be the students benefitting most from the bridge, Brett Beyeler, 19, said. The Newcastle Raiders never played the Vermillion Tanagers until the bridge was built, he said. Mohr added that the bridge enables the school's track team to run at USD's DakotaDome.

Many people in Newcastle feared the bridge would ferry bad influences across the river from the larger town of Vermillion, but it hasn't happened, Mohr said. "The kids seem to stay the same," he said. "Still small-town kids."

"It's typical small-town USA," said Doug Kneifl, owner of Castle Bar across the street from Lyle's Bar.

People know each other on a first name basis in towns this small, said JoEllen Sorenson, a loan officer at the local branch of the Bank of Dixon County, the only bank in town. "Here, you're not a number but a person," she said.

The bank sponsors high school athletes competing for state titles, Sorenson said.

"We try to give back to the community by sponsoring them," she said.

Local bars work together for the community by selling "pull tab" gambling tickets to raise approximately \$10,000 a year for the local fire department, Kneifl said.

Many people cross the bridge for services in Vermillion but business has not increased or changed in Newcastle, said Mary Addison, owner of Hair By Mary. "Newcastle doesn't really have anything for anybody," Addison said.

Farmers in the Newcastle area have benefited from the convenience of the bridge, said Bob Burchan of Obert, Neb. He never did business in Vermillion until the bridge was built, he said, but he now travels there three to four times a week to sell cattle and horses. "It saves a lot of time," Burchan said.

Kneifl's bar clientele has increased since the bridge's construction, he said. USD students travel to Newcastle to drink Fat Tire, a beer not sold on the South Dakota side of the bridge, he said.

Keith Trusty, repairing a roof, said there is not as much traffic through Newcastle as people thought when the bridge was built. "It's the easier way to get to Vermillion," he said.

Denny Lamprecht, a customer at Lyle's Bar, said young people in Newcastle travel to Vermillion in hopes of finding dates.

"They got a lot of good-looking broads over there," he said.

*Alli students Chad Avery, James Culbertson, Megan Gordon, Tesina Jackson, and Rachelle Todea contributed to this report.*



MEGAN GORDON ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



HINZ



MARY HUDETZ ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



TESINA JACKSON ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



CHAD AVERY ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MEGAN GORDON ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MEGAN GORDON ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From top: Main Street on a weekday morning. The new bridge to South Dakota is well traveled, according to Mary Addison, owner of Hair By Mary: "Newcastle doesn't really have anything for anybody." Keith Trusty repairs a roof in Newcastle. Downtown Newcastle is a sleepy stretch of middle America. As Doug Kneifl, owner of Castle Bar, puts it: "It's typical small-town USA." Brett Beyeler, 19, left, and Benton Roldes, 17, dust trophies at the Newcastle Public School. Bob Burchan, a farmer from Obert, Neb., leaves Marron's convenience store.





# O! Say can you ... sing?



From top left: Roxanne Hulick, 37, of Buffalo, Wyo., sings her heart out. Jacqueline Tuben, 4, gets a hand from Julie Slumskie, a project worker. Jessica Green, 37, Sioux Falls, takes a sigh of relief. The Singing Boys of Sioux Falls sang to help spread the word for the National Anthem Project. The choir is directed by Sam Barrett, 25, assistant director of the group.

BY JAMES C. FALCON BERGH  
Staff writer

**SIoux FALLS, S.D.** — Eric Swarm, 8, giggled that he didn't want to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" even though he is a member of a choral group.

It might have been because he was shy. Perhaps he didn't know the words.

If so, the young boy is not alone. A 2005 Harris poll showed that two out of three U.S. adults didn't know the words, why the song was written, or even what the national anthem was.

But expressing patriotism was not why Eric Swarm and other Star-Spangled crooners visited Falls Park a week ago for a gathering sponsored by the National Anthem Project. Members of the National Association of Music Education created the project in 2004.

"Our campaign focuses on music education," said Lisa Stringham, a member of the public relations team for the project. "That's really what we're trying to do. Everybody should be patriotic, but it's really not about that. It's really about music education."

Julie Bruhn, another member of the public relations team also said the main purpose of the campaign is music education.

On the particular morning that the project set up camp in Sioux Falls, there was a steady drizzle falling.

A stage was centered in the wet grass at Falls Park. Tents festooned with red, white, and blue colors flanked the stage. A karaoke machine blasting the instrumental music for "The Star-Spangled Banner" overwhelmed the serenity. The sounds of the waterfall — for which the park and city is named — were not audible. In the middle of the

activity stood a lone silver donation box; a slot big enough for a bill was centered on the top of the hard metal container.

Members of The Singing Boys of Sioux Falls and the SuFuDu Drum Line huddled underneath a nearby pavilion, still singing. They had just been on stage, singing the song. Line for line, word for word, breath for breath.

A group of 11 National Anthem Project team members and volunteers — two men and nine women — also assembled and sang the anthem, albeit off-key. "We've got to practice what we preach here," joked team member Joe Grznar, 27, of Brooklyn, New York. Melissa Hartz, in her last duty as Mrs. South Dakota, also sang. Wearing a knee-length aubergine dress, she was swimming in a river of red shirts.

However, the singing soon stopped. "The rockets red glare" and "the bombs bursting in air" were replaced with lightning and thunder. What had been a drizzle graduated into a storm. The attendance at the presentation was soon next to none, with the exception of a few soggy volunteers.

The 2006 tour began in Miami, days after New Year's. At the time of the Sioux Falls stop, the tour was halfway completed with 31 cities in 26 states visited. The finale is scheduled for Oct. 23-24, 2006, in New York City, although a tentative December 2006 stop in Alaska is being planned.

During their stop in Sioux Falls — and at every other stop — a petition was circulated to help save music education. Jodi Hunter, a volunteer from Sioux Falls, said that if they acquired one million signatures, they would send the petition to Congress. So far that day, the petition was adorned with the names of more than 50 citizens and visitors



PHOTOS BY  
DANIELLE DUCHENEAX

to Sioux Falls.

Julie Slumskie, a volunteer with The National Anthem Project and the wife of a local music shopkeeper, said that a lot of attention has been brought to the project because of the recent controversy regarding the national anthem and the Spanish language. The idea of the national anthem being sung in Spanish came about after the creation of "Nuestro Himno" ("Our Anthem"), a version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" that was created in 2006. The song was made to show support for the 'illegal' immigrants that were the subject of news coverage this year.

Also, for those that don't know, the national anthem for the United States is "The Star-Spangled Banner," which was

written by Francis Scott Key, a lawyer, in 1814. The words are:

*O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight?  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming!  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
O say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave,  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?*



# Closed for business with no explanation

## Prepaid services for tanning not refunded

BY MARY HUDETZ  
Staff writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — A laundry service and tanning salon closed June 4 without advance public notice, said former employees and the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce.

The owner, Randy Oliver, and manager, Jackie Pudhill, of Laundry World and Hawaiian Sun ended five years of business on Cherry Street, said Sean Bradie, who is the manager of University Rentals, which manages and owns the business property.

"It's a real mystery, to tell you the truth," said Blaine Wilson, an employee next door at Sioux Valley Home Medical Equipment. He said he noticed the business was closed about a week ago but has seen customers stop by for tanning, dry cleaning, wash and fold, and coin-op laundry services in the days since, he said.

A closed sign is posted at the front of Laundry World and Hawaiian Sun. There is no notice to customers that the laundry and tanning salon are permanently out of business.



NATIVE JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

**Jackie Pudhill, manager of Laundry World and Hawaiian Sun closed shop abruptly.**

Cori Bazemore, a former employee of Laundry World and Hawaiian Sun, said she did not know the businesses closed until June 13, she said. Bazemore left Laundry World and Hawaiian Sun in mid-May for a summer position with the Upward Bound program, but said she enjoyed working for Pudhill and had planned to return in the fall.

"I really liked my boss," Bazemore said. "She was like a friend to everybody."

Oliver and Pudhill do not owe employees money, said Bazemore and Brae Olson, another former employee. Customers, though, have filed complaints with the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce, said Tina Harnois, the organization's program manager.

Two tanning salon customers filed complaints regarding lost money on pre-paid packages, and four Laundry World customers filed complaints of missing laundry, Harnois said.

Customers at Hawaiian Sun could purchase anywhere from 100 minutes of tanning for \$26.30 to 400 minutes for \$68.80, and buy unlimited tanning passes for as much as \$46 per month, said Olson.

Kim Beene, an employee at University Cleaners on Main Street, had a monthly pass with time left on it when the salon closed, she said, but is not filing a complaint.

"(Pudhill) was a nice lady," Beene said. "I liked her."

Vermillion residents and business owners have speculated that a rise in the rent forced Oliver and Pudhill to close Hawaiian Sun and Laundry World, they said.

Larry Bradie, landlord and owner of University Rentals, declined to provide specific information regarding Oliver and Pudhill's rent.

"They just didn't do enough business to stay open," he said.

Bradie said tenants pay between \$10 and \$15 per square feet a year as well as utilities, insurance, tax and common-area maintenance. Laundry World and Hawaiian Sun occupied approximately 3,200 square feet, he said.

A small-business owner in Vermillion could lose a lot of profit on rent higher than \$500 per month, said Clarene Meins, the owner of University Cleaners and its building.

The washers and dryers now belong to University Rentals because Oliver and Pudhill did not fulfill the lease agreement, Bradie said.

"There is no question a laundry facility will do well here," Bradie said, adding that there is just one coin-op, Washtub Laundry, open in town now.

University Cleaners on Main Street has become Vermillion's only dry cleaning and drop-off service.

University Cleaners has received more business since Laundry World has closed, said owner Meins.

"I only anticipate getting busier," Meins said.

Attempts to reach Oliver and Pudhill by phone at their home in Yankton were unsuccessful. A woman, who did not identify herself, answered one call and informed a reporter that the couple was unavailable.

# Candy and sodas scrapped as schools push healthful foods

BY MEGAN GORDON  
Staff writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.**—Middle and high school students here will be offered an all-you-can-eat fruit and veggie bar at lunch as part of a new policy to fight obesity, school officials said.

High school vending machines will be unplugged one hour before and after lunch. Middle school students can't use the machines during school hours, and there will be no vending machines in the city's two elementary schools.

"We are offering all varieties of pop," such as diet and regular, said Chris Girard, committee chairman and school board member, "hoping at some point to totally get rid of pop."

The Vermillion School District has launched an anti-obesity program that will

help students to eat healthier, get the exercise they need and understand nutrition.

"The focus of the Wellness Policy is to educate children," Girard said. "We want to help them make healthy choices."

The school is also working to provide students with as many physical activities during the day as possible, he said. At Jolley Elementary School, teachers take students to play on a human chessboard outside.

The all-you-can-eat fruit and veggie bar will be provided to students buying lunches at school. Although extra entrees will still be sold to students, parents have the option to block their child from receiving additional food through Lunchtime Solutions Inc., the meal provider for the school, Girard said.

"It should be kept in mind that this will be a work-in-progress policy," said Mark Froke, superintendent of School District 13-1.

Vending machines in the schools are offering more healthful choices, including flavored water, unsweetened tea, diet soda, sports drinks and juice, according to Froke.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture, through Children and Adult Nutrition Services, or CANS, implemented the program in the summer of 2005.

In October, board members started drafting the Wellness Policy, which had to be finished before the end of the school year, Froke said. On June 16 the final draft was read at the school board meeting.

The committee is made up of teachers from all the schools, parents, nurses and community members. They will meet twice a year to discuss and evaluate how it has been applied.

"I think in many instances they have gone beyond USDA guidelines," Froke said.

The Wellness Policy is not only being executed here. It is also a state and national plan, he said.

The 2005 Youth Risk behavior survey shows that 11 percent of students are overweight in Nebraska and North Dakota, and almost 14 percent are at risk of becoming overweight, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web site. The CDC has not published a study of South Dakota.

The district had worked to provide more nutritional opportunities for students before the policy. There has been a large increase in the amount of water and juice sales in the high school since the display of the contents of vending machines were rearranged with healthier drinks on top and sodas on the bottom two rows, Girard said.

"We want to reduce those items all together," Froke said, but "it's just a start."

# Popular area for students to rest now off the beaten path

BY MEGAN GORDON  
Staff writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — Students are frustrated with the temporary relocation of the student center at the University of South Dakota, but many agree that in the long run the new building will be beneficial for everyone involved.

"The Commons is, like, way over there," USD junior Tishal Kirby said. Students will probably get more frustrated and angry, she said.

Until the new student center is built, the Temporary Student Center, located in the Continuing Education Building, will house many offices. This forces students to cross the already busy Cherry Street.

The Coyote Card office, Aramark food services and many student organizations will call the temporary center home, said Lisa Nielson, senior secretary for the student activity center. The U. Brew will also relocate to the temporary center.

"The student lounge center will be really missed," said Deb Knudson, I.D. Weeks Library technician.

Many students who passed through the lounge area in the Coyote Student Center worried there will not be enough space for all of the traffic.

The lounge was a place to relax between classes for students who commute, said USD junior Megan Dirks.

"It was a place to hang out and talk with people on campus," said Amy Worthington, a first-year graduate student.

The CSC was open last year, but the Commons dining hall in the North Complex dormitories was closed. U. Brew, Bump, Charlie's Grille and Lacotah provided plenty of places to eat.

The student center is being demolished. It is going to make way for a new student center that is expected to be completed in 2007, said Richard Van Den Hul, vice president of finance and administration.

"There will be a name change to the student center," Van Den Hul said, and "there is a donor involved." The name of the new student center has not been released.

The cost of the new CSC will be around \$20.6 million, Van Den Hul said. According to the university Web site, the building will

**"THE COMMONS IS, LIKE, WAY OVER THERE."**

■  
**TISHAL KIRBY**  
USD Student - Junior

feature enhanced dining services and a large ballroom area for students to gather.

In February 2005, students approved a \$4.95 tuition increase to the general activity fee per credit hour, and an increase of \$68.75 for students who require a meal plan, Van Den Hul said.

Barnes & Noble has also contributed to the student center, Van Den Hul said. Students will still be able to buy books on campus because the bookstore has also been moved to the temporary center, although it is in a much smaller space, said Angela Miller, manager of Barnes & Noble.

The bookstore is working with the university to make it easier for students to buy

books. When students register for classes, there will be a link for them to order books from Barnes & Noble, Van Den Hul said.

Barnes and Noble is not the only place students can buy books. In April, the Nebraska Book Co. bought USD Book and Supply, which has been renamed the Dakota Textbook Co.

New carpets, walls and ceilings will be installed in the Dakota Textbook Co., along with a new computer system, said Jeff Doyen, cashier at the Dakota Textbook Co.

"We are trying to give a new face to the place," said Zach Dunphy, Dakota Textbook Co. manager, and "give the students a little healthy competition."





# Start the Press

## Long days keep readers informed

PHOTOS AND STORY  
By W. L. SMITH

VERMILLION, S.D. — Newspapers are a miracle in their own right. The heart and soul of reporters, photographers and editors are laid out before millions of people each day for all to examine.

What most people don't often see is the enigma of how the newspaper is actually printed. Master printers are men of incredible skill and an eye for detail, who sometimes work extensive hours. Typically, a workday may exceed 12 hours.

"I'll come in at 5 a.m. and leave at 5 p.m., if things go right," said Pete Peterson. "If things go wrong we could stay longer."

Tom Nelson began printing at the Broadcaster Press in 1972. Although he left in 1989, he recently returned six months ago. Nelson worked as a master printer for 40 years, and now is a part-time employee lending his years of expertise and knowledge to the staff.

"I do whatever. Work on film processors, solve problems, sometimes Gerald's, sometimes Pete's, but, I gave up on Pete," said Nelson jokingly.

In 1985, Gerald Pedersen came to the press and apprenticed under Nelson. Pete Peterson also apprenticed under Nelson, starting nearly 21 years ago. Today, Pedersen is the head pressman, while Peterson and Todd Moe are his assistants.

Clockwise from top left: Assistant pressman Pete Peterson prepares a plate as part of the development process. Peterson holds a copy of the Native Journal as he fine tunes the final product for print. Hot off the press, the Vermillion Plain Talk is ready for the binder. Head pressman Gerald Pedersen pays close attention to detail as he makes adjustments to the Native Journal. Tom Nelson inspects a sample of the Plain Talk. Adjustments are a constant part of the printing process, which Pedersen has been doing since 1985.





# USD CAMPUS LIFE

## Native American Center struggles without technology

By JAMES CULBERTSON  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — Across Clark Street from Slagle Hall sits a small, tan house connected to the Looking Glass, a tanning salon and gift shop. The sign in front reads “Native American Cultural Center,” and inside you won’t find much.

Three outdated computers against a wall provide slow Internet access. Between two of them sits a geriatric printer that strains when it prints a student’s paper.

“Fifty percent of the time it works, 50 percent of the time it doesn’t,” said Erin Contreras, cultural coordinator at the center. “If a student tries to print a 20-page paper, they might get 10 pages, and then it quits.”

The condition of the center and its equipment has put pressure on program directors at the University of South Dakota. They are trying to update the NACC, as complaints by some Native American students are mounting.

The lack of funding “shows the students how unappreciated they are,” said Cori Bazemore, a junior who is one of USD’s 160 Native American students. They represent 2 percent of the 8,120 students on campus, according to Department of Education reports.

The computers at the NACC are all hand-me-downs, discarded by the university and donated. Shannon Petree, a student and Contreras’s assistant, said the computers are old and need to be upgraded.

“We have the slowest computers on campus,” Petree said.

The center also lacks a fax machine and direct mail delivery. Contreras has to walk across the street to the basement of Dakota Hall to receive or send a fax and to pick up the mail.

The NACC has wireless Internet access, just like the rest of campus, but Petree said most Native American students don’t have laptop computers.

Contreras began working at the center in November and found the environment



W. L. SMITH ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Top: Students and faculty have a discussion at the Native American Cultural Center, located across the street of the USD campus on Clark Street.**

**Left: Erin Contreras, cultural coordinator at the Native American Cultural Center works with slow computers and must send and receive faxes across the street.**

low-income students or who are the first in their families to go to college.

“The (TRIO) budget is limited, and we help out where we can,” said Charles Swick, the director of TRIO programs on campus. He said that the program has submitted a work order for a small renovation inside the center that would create more space.

Ray Carlisle, a TRIO program director at the University of Montana, said that the federal program has had less than a 1 percent-a-year increase in funding for the past five years. Staff salaries have been increased but no new money is being provided, resulting in budget cuts for programs like the NACC, he said.

Petree said few people on campus realize the strapped condition of NACC because the school paper, *The Volante*, doesn’t write many stories about the Native American community on campus.

“If more stuff was written,” she said, “the university would be forced to realize the positive things we accomplish.”

to be empty and uninviting. So, she took it upon herself to give it a new look.

“I’ve gone to surplus stores for things to make it more welcoming,” Contreras said.

The Coyote Student Center is being torn

down this summer and will donate some used furniture and a pool table to the NACC, Contreras said.

The center gets its funding from the federal TRIO program, designed to help

## Suspect: Description unleashes debate on race

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

The fact that the victim was Native American and grew up in a Native American community gave her description more credibility, Mabry said.

However, some thought the police should have handled the situation more delicately.

“Native men couldn’t leave their home,” Bazemore said. “They couldn’t walk around town without being accused of being a rapist.”

Bruce King, the campus diversity officer at USD, said the suspect’s sketch was distributed excessively throughout Vermillion.

“It just got plastered,” King said. “I have to believe there was things driving it. I’m not naïve enough to think that had he been a white male, blonde hair, blue eyes, 6 foot that it would have created this kind of tension.”

King said the sketch was ambiguous and too generic.

“He looked Hispanic, he looked Native, he could’ve been African American,” King said. “When you do something that broadly, you are going to open yourself up to broad criticism.”

Many Native American students came to King’s office complaining that people in the community were harassing them over the incident, King said.

Bazemore’s boyfriend, Jamie Burnette, 24, said he was at work in Brookman Hall at USD when police came and asked him to go to the police station for questioning.

“Tensions were high at that time,” Burnette said. “The Native community was targeted.”

**“HE LOOKED HISPANIC, HE LOOKED NATIVE, HE COULD’VE BEEN AFRICAN AMERICAN. WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING THAT BROADLY, YOU ARE GOING TO OPEN YOURSELF UP TO BROAD CRITICISM.”**

■  
BRUCE KING  
USD campus diversity officer

Mabry said there was nothing illegal about the action taken by police.

“If you look up the definition of racial profiling, you will see that we were not racially profiling,” Mabry said.

He said the biggest disappointment he had when this incident took place was the fact that no one talked to him about any concerns.

“No one from this community bothered to come to me and say, ‘We’re not comfortable with the way things are being handled,’” Mabry said. “People have a tendency to throw out the racially profiling card any time that a minority is involved in an investigation.”

Mabry said the suspect is still at large, and police have not received any new leads.



COURTESY OF VERMILLION POLICE

**This is the sketch police distributed through neighborhoods in Vermillion. Students complained of harassment by some people in the community.**



# Mumps scare drains vaccine reserve

*With two cases of mumps on campus, USD students required to get their shots*

BY TESINA JACKSON  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — The University of South Dakota is forcing summer school students and faculty to get mumps shots, a month and a half after an outbreak of the disease on campus.

Health officials vaccinated 214 people before running out of doses June 14 at the Clay County Courthouse, said Barb Buhler, information officer for South Dakota Department of Health. She urged people who need the vaccine to visit the health department office in Pierre.

Dozens of people crammed into a small, noisy room in the basement of the courthouse to get their required Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) shot. After filling out paperwork, most people waited for about 45 minutes before a nurse stuck a needle in their arm.

"It didn't hurt me, but some people did say it burned," said Charles Lubbers, chairman of Contemporary Media and Journalism at USD.

Last month, two people on campus, a student and a staff member, were diagnosed with mumps, said Kenyon Gleason, director of USD Media Relations.

Since then, the university has required all students, faculty and staff members to prove they've received an MMR shot. "We are just taking our lead from the Department of Health," Gleason said.

"It's a necessary precaution the university has to take," Lubbers said.

The mumps shot requirement also applies to summer programs, including the American Indian Journalism Institute. Six AIJI students waited to be vaccinated last Wednesday.

The South Dakota Department of Health expected about 200 people, Kay Dunham, an employee at USD, said she was told when she tried to get her shot, but was turned away.

By 12:30 that afternoon, they ran out of



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Junella Kost, 42, of Vermillion, reacts to a needle puncture delivering the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccination. There have been 120 confirmed cases of mumps reported in South Dakota as of June 16, said the South Dakota Department of Health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that 10 other states are dealing with mumps outbreaks.**

vaccine, Dunham said. She was told she would be rescheduled for a shot sometime next week.

"They were supposed to call me today, and I haven't heard back from them," Dunham said.

The two USD mumps cases were among 120 confirmed and 77 probable mumps cases in South Dakota as of June 16, the Department of Health reported on its Web site.

Iowa has confirmed more than 1,900 confirmed and probable mumps cases, according to the Iowa Department of Health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. At least 10 other states have reported

mumps cases.

USD student Kyla Christiansen, 19, was the first person in Clay County to come down with the disease. "When I first went to the doctor, I told him that I had the symptoms. And I was quarantined for nine days," Christiansen said in a phone interview from Sioux Falls.

Christiansen said the first indications she had mumps were swollen glands and a headache that lasted four days.

While Christiansen was quarantined, she was required to wear a mask and was allowed out of her room only to use the restroom, she said. Once it was confirmed she had mumps, she was put in isolation

and only her mother was allowed to visit, she said.

"When the doctor told me I had the mumps, I said, 'Are you kidding me?'" Christiansen said. "'I have so much going on. I have finals coming up. I don't have time for this.'"

Once word got around that she had the disease, some people avoided her. "It was kind of like, stay away from her she has the mumps," she said.

"You didn't need to be afraid of me like some people were," Christiansen said.

She missed two and a half weeks of school, she said, adding, "I'm still in the process of making up finals."

## Scout Finch and Boo Radley give life lessons to high schoolers

*Upward Bound program at USD prepares students to aim for college admissions testing*

BY CHAD AVERY  
Staff writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — The teacher stands in front of two dozen students, trying to stimulate a discussion about the life lessons learned from one of America's classics.

Charles Luecke, an assistant Upward Bound director, is using a discussion of Harper Lee's novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird," to challenge high school students in his summer-session English class to get more involved in their academic future.

The students are among the 80 participants in the 2006 University of South Dakota Upward Bound program, which is designed to help high school students prepare for a post-secondary education. The students are mostly freshmen and sophomores, but a few are seniors.

Upward Bound "gives you more opportunity to see colleges in the area," said Cheyenne Scott, 16, an Upward Bound student who is Rosebud Lakota.

The program focuses on the core subjects — math, science, English and social studies

— because they are the main emphasis on the ACT college entrance exams, Luecke said.

In addition to the academic aspect of the program, Upward Bound provides many extra-curricular activities. Aaron Poor Bear, activities director, arranges friendly matches in basketball, volleyball, chess, quiz bowl and other competitions. Noncompetitive activities include community service, Luecke said.

Students also have a chance to visit different colleges in the upper Midwest. They plan to visit colleges in South Dakota's Black Hills, Minneapolis and St. Louis, Mo., Luecke said.

Ivy Sully, a Yankton Sioux student, said she enjoys the variety of the program. "You experience different people," she said.

Most of the Upward Bound participants continue their education in college. From the class of 1999, 62.7 percent of students graduated or still are "persisting in college," Luecke said. In 2000, the preliminary numbers are above 50 percent.

"Proof is in the pudding," Luecke said. "One can say Upward Bound is success-

ful."

Misty Bruguier, 24, a former Upward Bound student, is now a senior at USD, majoring in criminal justice. She attributes a good portion of her college success to Upward Bound.

"It helps you learn responsibility," Bruguier said, listing Upward Bound's qualities. "Helps you adapt from being at home, helps you prepare for college, helps you on how to be social."

The USD program targets specific high schools on the Pine Ridge, Yankton and Rosebud reservations. South Dakota also hosts four other programs at South Dakota State University, Northern State University and Black Hills State University. There is another program at USD for Native American high school students called the Math and Science Initiative.

Across the nation, there are 850 Upward Bound programs, Luecke said. Luecke added that President Bush tried to eliminate the program, but Congress voted against it.

Nadine Padilla, a 2005 resident adviser, came to appreciate Upward Bound when she worked for the program in Boulder,

Colo. "I learned so much during that summer," Padilla said in an e-mail interview. "I learned how to be a mediator, a confidant and someone who could build a community within my RA group."

Students are encouraged to come out of their shells and participate in activities they usually don't do, Padilla said. She also was a former Upward Bound student.

"I had so much fun when I was a student in the program," she said. "I wanted to be an RA so that I could make sure that other students could enjoy the program as much as I did."

There are few disciplinary problems in the summer program and no tolerance for drugs and alcohol. "We base our policies and procedure on respect," Luecke said.

He credits a lot of the program's success to the staff members, who are mostly former Upward Bound students. "My goal is to have 100 percent of my summer staff to be former members," Luecke said.

The program has given many students the opportunity to better their lives.

It "truly impacts our students in a positive matter," Luecke said.



# NAJA: Vote expected on move at meeting in August

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

- The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque has hinted it would provide a home for NAJA.

Vermillion, a city of about 11,000 people, and the University of South Dakota, a campus with an enrollment of about 8,100, each have low total Native populations.

Larger cities with larger Native populations have invited the organization to relocate. NAJA has created a location committee to field requests from interested universities and cities. "It's simply a review process right now," board minutes quoted NAJA Location Committee Chair Bryan Pollard as saying June 16.

Ray Chavez, a co-founder of the American Indian Journalism Institute and a former chair of the USD journalism department, is now a visiting professor at OU. His established relationship with NAJA is one reason for OU's offer, Baca said.

NAJA has a number of board members with ties in Oklahoma, Baca said. Those ties, Native demographics and traveling convenience help make Oklahoma appealing.

Marsh said Baca told him the board was considering OU.

The OU proposal includes five offices that take up 600 square feet, free rent, free utilities, employee benefits and two graduate assistants, according to the June 16 board minutes.

Dan Lewerenz, the board secretary for NAJA, told the board that NAJA needs to start planning for the end of its five-year agreement with the Freedom Forum, according to minutes of a May 5 board meeting. That means either negotiating with and staying at USD, going to OU or going somewhere else.

Pollard said the organization also is seriously considering a bid from the NCAI.

The NCAI has plans to create an Embassy of Tribal Nations that would house NCAI itself, related tribal organizations and executive suites for some small tribes, said Mellor Willie, director of development at NCAI.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux have encouraged other tribes to support the embassy. In February, the tribe announced a \$1 million challenge grant to support the project. It would take another \$1 million to



RUSSEL DANIELS ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Kim Baca, interim executive director of NAJA. The organization could relocate from USD in 2008.**

fund the purchase of the building. Funds have currently reached the \$1.5 million mark, Willie said.

The organization already has targeted buildings located in Dupont Circle, K Street and L Street in Washington to "house related organizations and create a unified Native voice," an NCAI fundraising letter said.

The NCAI said Washington is a prime location for NAJA. Willie said NAJA's ability to contact Native journalists makes it an attractive organization to bring into the fold because NAJA can help get news to Indian country.

"The move would help assert a national influence, which is part of our strategic plan for the next five years," Baca said.

Mike Kellogg, the NAJA board president, said the embassy idea is intriguing. Although the relationship with the Freedom Forum has been great, Kellogg said, NAJA

needs to act on the best interest of its plan for aggressive growth.

However, NCAI would charge NAJA an undecided amount of rent for use of its building, something that USD does not do and OU would not do.

NAJA entered into an agreement to house its headquarters at USD in 2003. Before that NAJA owned a building in Minneapolis and soon fell into financial difficulties, Baca said.

Kellogg said NAJA had a good audit this year and is fiscally sound.

NAJA's current agreement at the media center will expire in spring 2008. Neither NAJA nor the media center has discussed plans to renew the current agreement. However, Engstrom, the USD provost, said he is scheduled to meet Friday with Kellogg to discuss NAJA's needs.

In some ways, NAJA's current space

concerns arose from its success at recruiting members. The Freedom Forum was a big contributor to NAJA's increased membership, Baca said.

The Freedom Forum supports NAJA and advocates diversity in newsrooms by training Native American student journalists through AIJI at the media center each June. AIJI participants receive free NAJA membership, paid for by the Freedom Forum, a fact that has helped drive NAJA's membership growth.

Baca said although the agenda is not set, NAJA will put the relocation measure to a vote by members, and she expects a decision at the national convention in Tulsa, Okla., which takes place Aug. 9-12.

But not all hope is lost at USD.

"At the end of the day, we might consider that the Freedom Forum is the best," Pollard said. "They have done a lot for us."

## Cherokee: Indian education money went to wrong students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

"When we first applied for the grants, we were under the impression that we did not need proof of enrollment," Beck said. "We found out later that wasn't true."

Other school administrators said they were left with the same feeling.

"The form basically just asked who in your family had Native American heritage," said Melissa Cox, principal of Pottsville Elementary, which received \$106,104 through the program.

According to officials with the Office of Federal Acknowledgment in the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Lost Cherokee completed the first step for recognition in 1999 by submitting a letter of intent. The group still must undergo several reviews, which could take years, before gaining recognition.

On its Web site, the Lost Cherokee said they are descendents of Cherokee people who left the Trail of Tears before reaching Oklahoma. Also on the Web site is a spreadsheet detailing how the Lost Cherokee have helped Arkansas schools receive more than \$1.2 million in Indian education funds.

So how did more than \$1 million slip through the U.S. Department of Education and into the hands of schools that may not have been entitled to it? Chad Colby, U.S. Department of Education deputy press secretary was not willing to go on the record to explain the slip-up.

"We didn't do anything wrong," Maxwell

of the Lost Cherokee said. "The government checked the grants."

The Lost Cherokee had provided the schools with information about the grants, which are intended to help Native American students succeed. Lost Cherokee officials also provided the forms and instructions for filling them out, and they answered any questions school officials had.

That's where the confusion began for most of the schools.

The Student Eligibility Evaluation, the form sent home for students' parents to fill out, asks for tribal affiliation and even an enrollment number. But below the line for the enrollment number, there's another line marked "Other."

At the top of the form, a paragraph defines an Indian for the purposes of the program. In part two of that definition, it states: "An Indian means any individual who is a descendant in the first or second degree ..."

In other words, if a student's parent or grandparent is Native American, then the student qualifies.

This is exactly what the schools believed, and what Cox said she called to confirm.

"When I called the government, I asked if they needed to have an enrollment number," said Cox, principal at Pottsville Elementary. "They told me 'no,' they didn't have to have that number."

So who could qualify as "Other?"

According to a different source in public relations for the Department of Education,

there could be many different ways to fill out "other," including listing a descendant in the first or second degree.

"When the initial application was made, we went on the advice of the LCN on how to identify the kids," Beck said. That advice, he said, was to send the forms home and let the students' parents fill out the information. If parents identified them as Native American, the school should count them.

"I would estimate that we identified about 150 to 160 students," Beck said.

After the Office of Indian Education re-evaluated the applications, Beck said, the count fell to no more than 10 Wonderview students who could be counted as Native American.

Beck said Wonderview School officials no longer want to pursue the grants.

"The amount of work that is involved and the amount of money that would be qualified for, it's just not enough money in my opinion," he said. "I would prefer that money be spent on kids that are in much more need than ours are."

Beck said that although no longer receiving the grant money has hurt the school's plan to expand their learning lab, there is no animosity between Wonderview and the LCN.

"We don't believe it was their intention to mislead anybody," Beck said. "It was a way for us to get some money to help our kids."

According to Beck and Cox, a few schools agreed to pay the LCN a 5 percent

administrative fee for helping them with the application process.

Maxwell said he didn't know about any such agreements being made between the Lost Cherokee and the schools.

"No money came to us, it went to the schools," Maxwell said. "I didn't know it if we took any fees."

But Beck said differently.

"That was part of our agreement," Beck said. "When it was time to pay them after we got our grant, we called them to send us an invoice but they never did."

Beck said by the time the invoice was sent; the OIE had contacted Wonderview about the number of students they identified. That's when Beck said they began to question whether the Lost Cherokees were entitled to the money.

"We never did pay them," Beck said.

Cox said Pottsville never made such an agreement with the LCN and never received a phone call from the OIE.

"We had heard that was happening," Cox said. "I did not personally receive any phone calls."

Although some schools gave the money back, Steve Thomas, superintendent of the Wonderview School District said they simply decided not to re-apply for future grants.

"We just opted not to participate any longer," Thomas said. "If there was any question, we didn't want our school to get into any trouble."



# Work, play cost more as gas prices climb

*As pocketbooks pinched, some drivers shop for cheap fill-up as they plan shorter trips*

BY TESINA JACKSON  
Staff writer

VERMILLION, S.D.— Soaring gas prices have done more than make people fume — they are forcing some local businesses to charge more.

Throughout Vermillion, the average cost of regular unleaded gas is \$2.79. Unleaded plus with ethanol is \$2.81, and premium is as high as \$2.99. Gas stations continue to change prices every month.

“We used to not change the price that much,” said Kevin Hannis, an employee at the Phillips 66 gas station. “Now we do it about five or six times a month. For a while we were doing it every other day.”

Most people seem to be okay with the price changes, Hannis said. “They realize it’s a world-wide thing and not just a local thing,” he said. “It does bring the sarcasm out in people, though.”

Some gas stations try to ease the pain at the pump with coupons. “We do give away quite a bit of coupons,” Beth Zilverberg, an employee at the Freedom Valu Center gas station, said. “People enjoy using them.”

Customers who buy gas at Freedom Valu Center are able to get a \$2 off coupon, Zilverberg said.

It also brings out some novel ways to pay for gas. The Diamond Tool & Pawn shop on Cherry Street gave “pawn loans” that people would use to pay for gas, said Corey Haug, the owner of the Diamond Tool & Pawn.

Even though people may have a chance to buy cheaper gas, many don’t realize they’re paying higher prices elsewhere because fuel costs are going up.

“I had to raise prices on towing services,” said Larry Mart, owner of Mart Auto Body & Towing. The number of cars being towed hasn’t decreased, he said. Mart used to charge \$40 to tow someone. Now he charges \$50 because of the rocketing gas prices. For out-of-town towing, it is \$3 per mile, and that is one-way, Mart said while he was working at his desk.

The rise in gas prices has even caused some businesses to cut back on company trips. “It affects the extra perks we get, such as the trip to Las Vegas. It was cut back,” Scott Jongeong, an employee for the Spee Dee Delivery Service, said, as he was delivering a package for Mart Auto Body & Towing.

Spee Dee Delivery Service has been able to use the gas hikes to its advantage. Spee Dee gets more business because small “mom and pop” companies are using its delivery service to cut down their prices, Jongeong said.

Not all gas stations have the same prices. Conoco, a gas station east of town by Interstate 29, is 10 cents cheaper.

“We’re going camping this weekend. So we’re filling up now while it’s

## Cruising toward \$3.00 a gallon

- Average cost of unleaded in Vermillion: \$2.79 a gallon.
- Unleaded with ethanol added: \$2.81 a gallon
- Premium tips the scales at as much as \$2.99 a gallon.
- One station gives customers coupons.
- Some drivers turn to ‘pawn loans’ to fill the tank.
- Charges for services such as towing and lawn care increase along with fuel prices.



PHOTOS BY W.L. SMITH ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

“WE USED TO NOT CHANGE THE PRICE THAT MUCH. NOW WE DO IT ABOUT FIVE OR SIX TIMES A MONTH. FOR A WHILE WE WERE DOING IT EVERY OTHER DAY.”

■  
KEVIN HANNIS  
Phillips 66 gas station employee

cheap,” said Shawn Flick, shelling out \$166 to fill his RV.

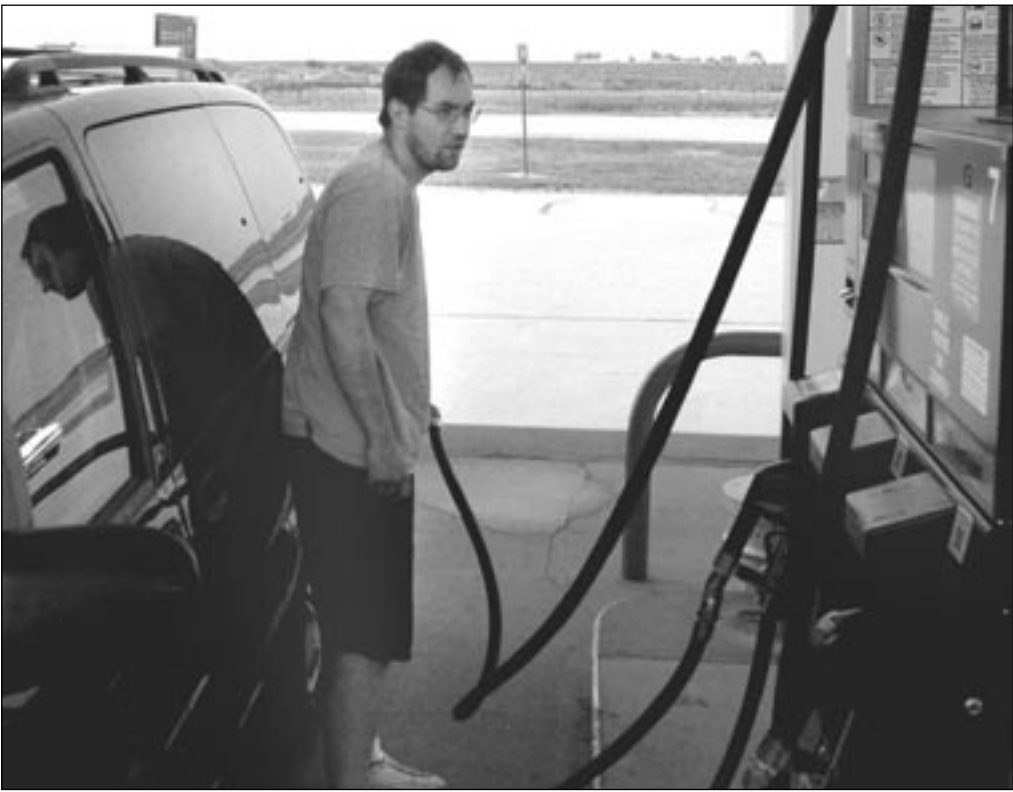
Flick plans shorter trips and stays closer to home because of the gas prices being so high, he said.

Businesses such as AAA are being pinched by the rocketing gas prices. “I’ve given out less travel books and maps in the last week,” Jim Zuercher, a customer service counselor, said.

Although the automobile association doesn’t get a lot of business in the summer, Zuercher said, people are traveling a lot less than they used to. “The rise in gas prices have some impact but not enough to stop traffic,” he said.

Surging gas prices have left places like the Moonlite Limousine with less business. Moonlite Limousine used to take a bus full of people to Sioux Falls, Steve Williams, an employee, said in a phone interview. The cost to the limousine company was only \$40. Now it’s up to almost \$100 because of gas prices, he said.

“It’s about \$1 a mile to operate the bus,” Williams said. “Gas prices have doubled and so have our costs, and people can’t afford it anymore.”



From top: Shawn Flick fills up the family motor home before going on vacation next week. The traveler from Nebraska has been on vacation and so far has spent \$300 dollars on fuel. This purchase of more than \$50 was not enough to fill the tank.







MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



DANIELLE DUCHENEUX ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



W.L. SMITH ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From above left: Members of the Kostel family celebrate Czech Days. A young girl rides along on a dedication float in memory of the late Sgt. Rich Schild who was a resident of Tabor. Schild was killed during a convoy operation in Baghdad on Dec. 4. Zander Szabo (left), 4 and Tanner Showers, 3, of Denver, play near a tree in a park. Kolaches packaged and ready to go. Taking advantage of the shade, legion members rest before walking the parade route.



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Czech it out

## Parade in Tabor honors heritage with plenty of pie, Polka and fun

By DANIELLE DUCHENEUX  
Staff Writer

TABOR, S.D. — Bright red traditional Czech clothing lined the busy streets of Tabor June 16. The bell rang, the ribbon was cut and the 58th Annual Czech Days celebration began. People from all over the country streamed into Tabor for a memorial service, the parade, a queen contest and a polka dance for all to celebrate Czech culture.

As floats passed by, eager children held their plastic bags open in anticipation, hoping to catch as much candy as possible. Polka music blared from speakers hung above the street while 104 entries from nearby towns paraded through the streets lined with Czech families and friends. Crowds enjoyed the Czech festivities until heavy rain showers moved in, making for a shorter day. Luckily, kolaches, pie, and Polka music kept everyone company as the storm passed by.

Above center: A child watches the parade. Center: Sisters Lisa and Tia Schlagel look over each other's costumes. At right: The Math Sladky band from Valparaiso, Neb., has participated in the festivities for the past 12 years. Below center right: A young boy passes out snappers from the DAM Fireworks store along the parade route.



RUSSEL DANIELS ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



SARAH WELLIVER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



RUSSEL DANIELS ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



W.L. SMITH ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



SARAH WELLIVER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From above right: Old timers cruise by in their vintage car. Trumpet players entice the crowd gathered at the parade. Abbi Stahlecker watches as jets fly overhead before the parade. Children enjoy one of the rides. A summer storm sends people into Beseda Hall for an early lunch.



SARAH WELLIVER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



RUSSEL DANIELS ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





## The long and curvy path

People stroll through Falls Park in Sioux Falls, where artists will sell their work this weekend at Artfalls. Booths will feature sculpture, paintings, pottery and glass art. In past years, the event has lured more than 20,000 people to the park. Admission is free.

DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Traditional and modern part ways along powwow trail

## *Community vs. contests*

By CHAD AVERY  
Staff writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — As a traditional dancer, Shannon Petree has traveled all over South Dakota, North Dakota and sometimes Iowa.

Petree, a Standing Rock Sioux tribal member, is one of hundreds of Natives who hit the “powwow trail” every summer, traveling around Indian Country to take part in the songs, dances and ceremonies of the indigenous social gatherings.

“I danced since I was a little kid,” said Petree, 30, a University of South Dakota student here.

Powwows are “a way for people to get together and honor people, or recognize people,” said Wayne Evans, Sicangu Lakota, a powwow emcee and a retired USD professor. The Lakota people used to call powwows a wacipi, he said.

Today, dancers and singers travel all over the United States and Canada to participate in powwows. There are usually two kinds of powwows: competitive and traditional.

Traditional powwows are more focused on the community and the culture behind the wacipi, Evans said. Competitive powwows tend to be more geared toward showmanship and winning prizes such as cash, blankets and horses. “All that is kind of European,” said Evans.

Another difference between the two types: “Traditional powwows are a lot more fun. You get to dance more,” said Petree.

Evans calls the competitive events “contest powwows” and regards them as “more of the Wild West entertaining of the non-Indians.”

“It’s a show,” he said, whereas “wacipi is really for internal culture adherence.”

There is a place for contest powwows, he said, but it’s important to keep them separate from traditional powwows.

“In my philosophy,” Evans said, “we really need to ... not intermingle that.”

Through her powwow experiences, Petree said she has learned to adhere to a higher standard. “You’re not drinking, you’re not out partying,” she said. She has been taught to be respectful and to keep “that standard all the time, in life, not just powwowing.”

When she was a girl, her grandmother made her outfits and got her into dancing, said Petree. She danced until she was 14 years old and took some time off.

“I decided a couple years ago ... I needed to dance,” she said. “I needed to get back and practice my culture.”

Today, Petree and her boyfriend, Mike Manischalco, make their regalia, she said.

Evans has been an emcee mostly for college and community powwows, he said. He also started his own drum group called the Oyate Singers.

He said he enjoys drumming for traditional men and women dancers. “I’m old-fashioned,” he said. “Those songs tell a story, a beautiful story. There’s a real ... interaction between the singer and that drum, how you hit that drum. The drum literally helps you to sing that song. ... I really sense it touches the hearts of those dancers.”

Powwows have affected many people throughout Indian Country, Petree said.

“For me personally, powwow dancing is a way you live your life,” she said.





# Strike up the band camp

PHOTOS AND STORY  
BY MARTINA LEE ROSE



VERMILLION, S.D. — Her eyes were closed and her hands moved, playing an imaginary drum. Her instrument lay in front of her, her music sheets sprawled on top. She stopped, picked up a pencil and jotted down some notes. She closed her eyes and played the beat again.

“I live in the band room during the school year. It’s how I express myself,” Emily Miller said. “Most people don’t listen to what you say but they’ll like to listen to what you play.”

Miller, 16, is an 11th grader at Milbank High School and also one of 75 band students participating in the University of South Dakota Drum Corps Camp.

The three-day camp is held in the Warren M. Lee Fine Arts Building on the USD campus.

“I’m trying to give them techniques and ideas to bring back to their band,” said Dr. Darin Wadley, director of the camp.

Drumline, color guard and drum majors practiced in separate rooms. The three groups practiced more than 16 hours from Sunday night to Tuesday afternoon before performing together in an auditorium.

“Everything needs to look precise but natural,” Jeff Robilliard, drum major instructor, said.

As drumline practice wrapped up students set down their drums and mallets.

“Don’t make noise, let the instrument do that for you,” Wadley said to the students.



Counterclockwise from top left: Drumline students return Tuesday from the final performance during the University of South Dakota High School Drum Corps Camp. A bass player takes a seat between practice sessions. Emily Miller, 16, from Milbank High School performs on stage. Color guard students practice for their final performance. Beginning color guard students run flag drills. Drumline students practice a routine.





# midsummer musical immersion

PHOTOS AND STORY  
By SARAH WELLIVER

On the second floor of the National Music Museum in Vermillion, 16 barefoot fifth and sixth graders are huddled in a room filled with instruments. The center of the room holds an assortment of golden gongs and xylophone-like bars. Shoes are piled in a corner.

Each child stands or sits in front of a gold-leafed instrument and holds a mallet intently.

A woman raises her hands. "One – two – and!" At once the small space fills with auburn chimes and pings, the steady "gong-gong-gong" keeps the beat for the rest of the small musicians. This is the last day of the museum's summer explorer series, and the children are learning to play the Javanese gamelan.

Deborah Check-Reeves started the Summer Explorer Series nine years ago as a way to show children that a museum doesn't always have to be a quiet, untouchable place.

"I want them to know that a museum's a fun place to be," she says.

Each explorer listens intently as Reeves takes off her sandals and explains that to show respect to the gamelan, the Javanese musicians would remove their shoes before playing. The gamelan comes from Indonesia and is believed to have its own spirit. Each has a unique design. "I want them to know that every culture is interesting and deserving of respect," Reeves says.



Clockwise from top left: The National Music Museum's summer explorer series listens as Deborah Reeves explains the history of the gamelan. Anna Hammond-Cherdina, 10, hits a gong. Reeves conducts children through rhythms of playing a bongang. Reeves shows 16 fifth and sixth graders how to move to the rhythm. Cherdina-Hammond waits for her turn to play. Ten-year-old Mandy Stolz quiets a hanging gong with her hand.







# It's playtime in Vermillion

PHOTOS AND STORY  
BY RUSSEL A. DANIELS

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — Two young actresses fixed each other's 1950s vintage dresses, as dozens of young children weaved in and out of the chaos of a dress rehearsal. The smell of fresh paint rose from stage props. Old men anxiously sang their lines.

A baseball diamond dugout, nightclub and a residential interior compete for space in the back stage of the Vermillion Community Theatre's production of "Damn Yankees."

"It has been a great cast and a great community effort on all fronts," said Chuck Thatcher, who plays Mr. Applegate (who is also Satan).

"This character has humbled me. It has been a long time since I have been in a play," Thatcher said. "It makes me appreciate that one's memory does fade with age, and so it's been a lot of work."

"Damn Yankees" will open Friday and will run through Monday. The show begins at 8 p.m., except on Sunday, which has a 2 p.m. matinee only.



Counterclockwise from top right: Seth Nesselhuf watches Chuck Thatcher, who is Satan, rehearse a quick number behind the stage. Ashley Thompson and Phillip Munkvoldt move props onto the stage. George Schlenker, sells his soul to Thatcher during the first scene of "Damn Yankees." Shannon Skillman and Dru Daniels apply theatre makeup and prepare for their first dress rehearsal. Backstage the fly operators, Jim Olson and Aaron, wait for cues before pulling curtains and props into their proper places. Nightclub dancers sing in the second scene during a dress rehearsal Wednesday evening. The 13-piece band tunes up in the orchestra pit.



# Living ARTS AND LEISURE

## Coming-of-age flick needs Native actors

BY JAMES C. FALCON BERGH  
Staff writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — He was just a young boy. Eleven years old, almost twelve. The decision he made changed his life. That summer, Mathew became a man. End scene.

This is the premise behind “The Stone Child,” a film by writer/director/producer Chris Martini. The drama tells the story of Mathew, an 11-year-old boy torn between his parents and their respective cultures: his mother, Susan, a depressed Mormon; his father, Ray, a Lakota Sioux living on his native land. The movie takes place across the sweeping prairies, the sweeping culture and the sweeping poverty of the Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern South Dakota.

Martini graduated from the New York University Film School in 1996, he said, and has made at least six short films, edited others and worked as an actor. He co-wrote “The Stone Child” with Brett Duncan, a childhood friend. Martini describes “The Stone Child” as a coming of age story, similar to “The Whale Rider.”

“He goes on a journey back to the reservation to be with his father,” Martini said by telephone from his office in New York City. “It’s essentially about a boy discovering who he is.”

Martini describes his budget as “ultra low.” The script isn’t Hollywood material, he said, making it difficult to raise money.

“With an independent film, it’s always an uphill battle,” he said. “When your script doesn’t exactly fit into a box – a Hollywood cookie cutter-type of frame – then it’s very hard to raise the money.” He added, “If we’re able to pull in any more money, then we can start considering shooting the whole thing in South Dakota. I’m still waiting to hear back from some established actors.”

Martini said he’s sent the script to well-known actors such as Margot Kidder, Lolita Davidovich and Graham Greene, an Oneida and popular Native American actor. Martini wants to get the script to “some main talent in the Indian community,” he said.

In early June, Martini sent out a call seeking actors from South Dakota, especially for Native American roles. The press release spread to a variety of South Dakota groups associated with acting and theater.

Karla LaRive of Studio West Management, a talent agency specializing in Native American performers, said she has received inquiries from all over Indian

**“THE SCRIPT IS GOOD.  
THE CAST HAS TO BE PERFECT.  
I’M PREPARED TO WAIT UNTIL I FIND THE  
RIGHT PEOPLE.”**

CHRIS MARTINI  
Writer, director, producer

Country for “The Stone Child” roles.

“Principally (Martini is) looking for new faces and Lakota performers,” LaRive said.

Martini said he has received viable applications – including headshots and resumes – from about 15 people who could play Mathew. He hasn’t seen any videotapes yet and believes that might be because Pine Ridge lacks camera equipment. He said he hopes to send a videographer out to film auditions.

“The script is good. The cast has to be perfect,” Martini said. “I’m prepared to wait until I find the right people.”

Loren Cuny is interested in being one of these “right people.”

Cuny, an Oglala Sioux actor and stuntman from Martin, S.D., is intrigued by the part of Mathew’s father, Ray. Cuny identifies with Ray; both are divorced fathers with a

feeling of bitterness. Cuny, during a phone interview with Native Journal, read a line from the script in which Ray tells Mathew that he won’t realize what a good father Ray is until after Ray is dead.

Cuny has worked in films for about sixteen years. He began his career as a stuntman in “Dances

With Wolves;” his later credits include stints in “Thunderheart” and “Dead Man’s Walk,” and the television program “Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman.”

However, Cuny believes that South Dakota is not an easy place to be an actor.

“It’s very limited,” Cuny said. “There isn’t that much work here as compared to Los Angeles and Minneapolis. It’s easier to get a job outside the state than it is in South Dakota.”

For a while, Cuny lived in Phoenix where there was an abundance of work compared to South Dakota. “I had to do a lot of hustling to get some of that work out there,” he added.

Cuny, a Screen Actors Guild member, wants to move from stunts to acting. He said, “A man can only do so much falling off of horses.”

## Web site a floodlight on your life

BY MEGAN GORDON  
Staff writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — Several AIJI students say their pages on MySpace.com are clean, but many entries aren’t so dirt free.

Fifteen of the 20 AIJI students have a MySpace or Facebook account. Earlier this month, The New York Times reported that some job recruiters are looking at social networking sites for background information on their applicants.

MySpace and Facebook are social networking Web sites that have grown in popularity in recent years with young adults and pop culture-oriented businesses.

All of the AIJI students agreed to talk about their MySpace pages—and were promised anonymity—but they were unaware that a reporter checked out their sites. To further protect their identities, this article refers to all students as males.

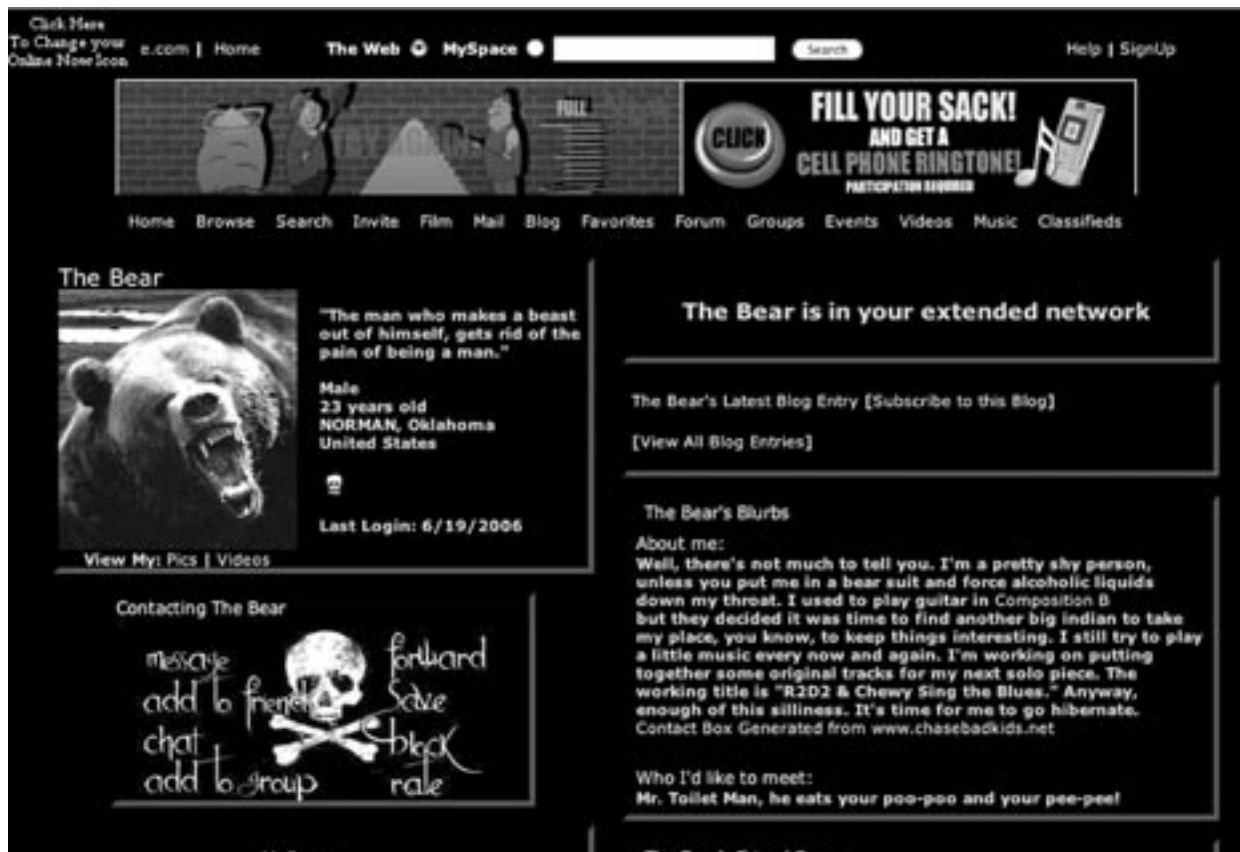
Most students say that they use the social networking sites to keep in touch with friends through blogging, wall posts—a posting board for friends—and personal messages.

“I try to keep it clean,” said one student. But wall posts on his MySpace page aren’t as spotless as he described.

“Thanks a lot!” a friend wrote on his wall. “While you were upstairs smoking pot and eating chips, you were supposed to be watching my kids... I asked you to watch them for like two minutes, and now... they are both dead in the hot tub. Thanks.”

Sometimes what’s written on a page may be clean, but other people can comment on blogs, or write on a wall, and everyone can read what is written.

“Just general information,” one student said about his page. “Nothing I consider job damning.”



A screen capture of an AIJI student's MySpace Web site tells the world about him. Some employers are now checking sites like this to make judgments on job candidates. Critics say such sites can be hazardous to a job candidate's prospects, without him or her knowing it.

On that person’s MySpace site, recruiters would see that he is an “all around bum” and considers himself to have “progressive paranoia.”

Another AIJI student said that his MySpace contains “just pictures of me really.”

“Mainly, I have it for friends that live far away,” he said.

His friends may live far away, but this “space-case flower child” has things written on his wall that may give prospective employers second thoughts.

“Happy Satan Day!” read one post. “May your day be filled with darkness and blood orgies!”

A picture of his Facebook page had the caption “secret agent.” He confessed that his page is a little antisocial.

“It’s kind of saying f--- you, but not in those words,” he said.

Another AIJI student said he usually edits his MySpace page, but there are pictures of nearly naked men on his comment posts.

“In my blog, sometimes I use language

that might make my grandma faint,” he said.

Many of the students agree that there should be a line between their personal and private lives.

“Plus with the Patriot Act, I don’t want Uncle Sam looking in on me from time to time,” one student said.

Although these sites may seem like fun, one student said it best:

“If you’re worried about it, keep it clean.”





**Clockwise from top left: Painting instructor Gerald Cournoyer explains to Jack Gouge what he can do to improve the early stages of his paintings. Gouge uses a fine point brush to create a smaller detail. He mixes shades of colors to achieve the final hue. Gouge strokes paint on the canvas late into the night. Jack flips through sketches explaining the symbolism and spiritual influence behind each piece. Left, Hoka Skenandore, 24, of Albuquerque, N.M., listens to Gouge explain what colors to mix for the next stage in his painting.**

# Brushstrokes at midnight

PHOTOS AND STORY  
BY DANIELLE DUCHENEAUX

**VERMILLION, S.D.** – With his headphones on full-blast blaring the sounds of Stomp Dance, he carefully chooses the colors to paint his culture. One stroke, then another, the scene develops. Everyone else has called it a night but midnight strikes and ideas just keep flowing.

Jack Gouge, 31, of Oklahoma City is a Cherokee/Muscogee Creek tribe member. He is attending the Oscar Howe Summer Art Institute at the University of South Dakota for his first year. Even as an older student, Gouge is excited to learn from the instructors and to get back on track with painting, his passion.

The Oscar Howe Summer Art Institute is a two-week program that offers high school students instruction in mediums such as painting, drawing, color studies, art history and screenprinting. As a new addition to the institute, college students can earn three credit hours in the area of art they work in.

Gouge started drawing as a child. With the inspiration of his brother, he is trying to get back with the art he left behind in high school. The “self-taught artist” has returned to college to create contemporary art and to help assist in breaking the stereotypes of Native American art such as traditional tepee paintings and Indians on horses.

His advice to struggling, young native artists is not to be discouraged and to “keep at it, don’t give up, it’s going to pay off,” Gouge said. With the help of his painting instructor, Gerald Cournoyer, he feels like he is on the right track. “He has rekindled the fire that was pretty much burnt out,” Gouge said.



# Voices OF AIJI

## Bandwagon for abortion ban could leave families in dust

BY TERRIA SMITH  
Staff writer

The history of South Dakota is rich. It's where Mount Rushmore was carved, where the Black Hills gold rush drove area tribes away, where a massacre and a siege took place at Wounded Knee.

Now, history is being made again. South Dakota is paving the way toward what many South Dakotans hope will be the end of abortion. In February the state legislature passed House Bill 1215, which will make it illegal for doctors to perform abortions in the state. Earlier this month, a petition drive was successful to put the law to public vote this November.

News of the issue seems to be everywhere. On National Public Radio and elsewhere, Cecelia Fire Thunder, Oglala Sioux Tribal President, has committed to opening a Planned Parenthood on the reservation if the bill passes. Local papers have published news stories about the successful petition that placed this bill on the ballot. In a press conference at the American Indian Journalism Institute, Gov. Mike Rounds said, "I personally believe abortion is wrong."

The matter has remained predominately political in the media, leaving out something crucial.

What is missing from so much media coverage is the voice of those South Dakotans who have been affected by abortion. These people are daughters, sister, granddaughters and best friends to many of you.

If House Bill 1215 passes, someday there may be a young South Dakotan like them who will be pregnant, terrified and not able to have the freedom to make the right choice for herself. Her state will have made that choice for her.



BRONSON PESHAKAI ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### As the nation watches

**Gov. Mike Rounds signed a law that would make it a felony for doctors to perform abortions in South Dakota. A petition drive will put the law to a public vote in November. On Wednesday, Rounds told students: "I personally believe abortion is wrong."**

The public will have taken a vote telling her how she will have to live the rest of her life. Not her doctor, not herself, but the public. Thus, it should be the public's responsibility to deal with the consequences of this legislation.

There are those who would argue that the true missing voice is that of an "unborn

child." They would argue, "Life begins at conception." There is nothing to counter this argument if this is a part of an individual's moral or religious make up. This point of view provides a valid reason for disagreeing with abortion. What this point of view does not offer is a solution to the problem of the socio-economic challenges a woman may face when having to carry out

an unexpected pregnancy.

This point of view is not helpful when a woman cannot afford rent, has to hang her head in a welfare office and ask for help, or weeps when she has no money for the child's needs.

What resources will be provided for women in these situations? Does the government and public only care about the "unborn child" until it is born? Is the state ready to provide the amount of services required for those who may not be ready to become parents?

Thus far, the answer to this question does not seem too promising.

During the American Indian Journalism Institute, Gov. Rounds mentioned charitable organizations, such as the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, that have pledged to help women. He also said the Children's Health Insurance Plan as state-funded source of assistance, but that alone will not be sufficient.

The focus seems to be placed more on the ban, not the consequences of what the ban will do.

South Dakota is the home of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, one of the poorest areas in the country, with most of its population below poverty level. As a whole, 12.4 percent of the population in South Dakota currently lives in poverty. This may increase with the ban of abortion. Is the state prepared to handle it?

The possibility of an abortion ban in South Dakota is a reality. If it happens, it will be a victory for the many who have fought for years against abortion. Those same people must fight for quality of life for the women who may have otherwise had an abortion. Once their cause is won, they must not abandon the families they helped create.

## A warm hello, a cold stare In middle America, lots of room to grow

BY ISHMAEL ALI ELIAS  
Staff writer

I was naive.

The gentle smiles of passersby on Cherry Street led me to believe my skin color would not be an issue.

The Wal-Mart greeter's voiceless "hi" followed by a seemingly sincere grin gave me confidence I could shop without secret store police tracking my every move.

I was lulled into a false sense of security by the batting eyelashes of waitresses taking my order at the Cherry Street Grille.

So, I didn't see it coming when a video store clerk shut down the store early to keep me and my Native friends from entering. I was blindsided when a few local boys in white pickup trucks rolled by shouting racial slurs in broad daylight.

I was taken aback when I began to get more stares than smiles, when the feeling of being a welcomed guest transformed into a reminder that I am indeed different.

I was naive.

Not because I thought there were genuinely nice people in Vermillion, South Dakota. I was naive because I thought there were only nice people in Vermillion, South Dakota, that this was a place in which ignorance



ILLUSTRATION BY ISHMAEL ALI ELIAS

and hate did not reside.

This is not a sob story, however. It is an admission that I was naive.

It won't happen again.

## Bikers and booze crash peace of ancient, sacred Bear Butte

BY MARY HUDETZ  
Staff writer

American Indian people who travel to Bear Butte to fast, pray, and hold ceremonies face a growing problem. Plans to open biker bars near the base of the sacred site place religion and capitalism in direct conflict.

Now, bikers attending the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally will be able to get their fill of liquor and rock 'n' roll less than three miles away from Bear Butte. Anyone visiting Bear Butte for traditional or spiritual reasons during the rally will be forced to tolerate the distraction of parties and music acts such as the Steve Miller Band and the Gin Blossoms.

Members of the Lakota, Cheyenne, and other American Indian tribes have endured three frustrating months. Many attended the liquor license hearings in Sturgis to present their concerns, but the commissioners were not persuaded by their efforts or arguments. The county commissioners see the situation as a property rights issue and an individual's right to free enterprise, they said.

Gov. Mike Rounds has been content to let the issue settle at the county level. He resisted the opportunity to make a significant comment regarding the issue Wednesday at the American Indian Journalism

Institute.

But, is this an issue the Meade County Commissioners should have jurisdiction over?

After all, it is a state park that is jeopardized, and visitors of all walks of life cross county and state boundaries to get to the region.

Bikers are willing to travel across the country every year to fill the streets of Sturgis in August and provide an economic boost to the Black Hills.

Members of tribes throughout the region hold some of their most sacred ceremonial events at Bear Butte, and individuals can approach the mountain on any day with their deepest hopes and prayers. Bear Butte has offered a spiritual fulfillment deep enough to attract visitors from any distance for longer than any state or county boundary has existed.

Now, the religious practices at Bear Butte are threatened by the growth of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

At this point, it seems essential for South Dakota tribes to look toward the future by petitioning at state and national levels for the establishment of a buffer zone between Bear Butte and any future development. Otherwise, Meade County and the state of South Dakota will allow biker venues to inch closer to a place where prayers and offering have been made for centuries.



# Views OF THE BIG SCREEN

## at the movies



### 'Cars' zips ahead

BY BAXTER HOLMES  
Staff writer

Disney and Pixar brought some big names together for their animated racing film “Cars” and came away with a movie that speeds by the competition for a first-place finish.

Bob Costas, Michael Keaton, Cheech Marin and Owen Wilson are some of the voices of the cars that are alive and revving. Wilson plays “Lightning McQueen,” a hot-shot rookie on the racing circuit. He is one race away from the Piston Cup, racing’s ultimate crown.

After a three-way tie in the first race, Lightning must travel cross country to California for the tie-breaking race that could get him the big sponsor of which he has always dreamed. He gets lost and ends up in Radiator Springs, “the cutest little town in Carburetor County.”

Lightning comes to learn some lessons and make some good friends such as “Mater,” played by Larry The Cable Guy.

Like the films “Toy Story,” “Monsters, Inc.” and “A Bug’s Life,” Pixar teamed with Disney to once again display a phenomenal

ability to create a world on a computer screen. The graphics are crisp, clean and stunning, and so are the voices. Funny twists and turns follow the cars, and the audience gets a sneak peak into the world of automobiles. As in previous movies, Disney and Pixar have been able to make the cars seem human with various personalities and emotions.

Although intended for children, “Cars” will please all audiences with its clever jokes such as Lightning’s dialogue with Mater:

Lightning: “Don’t you know who that is? He’s the ‘Hudson Hornet’! He has three Piston Cups!”

Mater: “He did what in his cup?”

Disney teamed with the premier animation company and a long list of big names to produce a movie that people of all audiences will love. “Cars” races past the finish line for a four frybread rating out of five.



### Bitter main squeeze, bad dinner party add up to one big lemon

BY MEGAN GORDON  
Staff writer

Brooke just wants 12 lemons, but ends up with a big one, her boyfriend. Why can’t Gary just do something right for once? Instead, the couple fights their way into a disastrous night that ultimately leads to their breakup.

Game night is next, and they can’t break a commitment. The couple becomes angry at the fact they don’t win and can’t stop fighting about it. They eventually make their friends feel so awkward that everyone goes home.

They are left with this decision: Either one moves out and the other keeps the apartment, or they sell it so they can both move on with their lives.

“The Break-Up” with Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn is an over-hyped movie with constant arguing, overextended monologues and an undefined ending. The movie is hard to follow and leaves the viewer disappointed.

This film starts where most romantic comedies end: After two people meet, fall in love and then drive each other crazy. Brooke breaks up with Gary after they have a little fight about doing the dishes. “I want you to want to help me,” Brooke tells him.

Both characters then declare an all out war because neither wants to move out. The relentless fighting takes away from the storyline, and with so much conflict the viewer has a hard time following the movie.

The only thing that keeps the movie alive is Vaughn’s monologues, which are sometimes distracting, but funny. Aniston had yet another disappointing performance, after the movie, “Friends With Money.”

The movie trailers and advertising make the film look better than it is. They trick the viewer into thinking this was going to be a good movie.

Reznet rating: one frybread



### Comic smackdown relies on chaos to to spark hilarity

BY TROY DONEY  
Staff writer

If you’re expecting a coherent, instantly gratifying movie, you’ve come to the wrong place. But if you’ve come predisposed for disorder and have a healthy suspension of reality, then welcome! We’ve been expecting you.

“Nacho Libre” is the highly anticipated latest work of Jared Hess, the director and writer of “Napoleon Dynamite.” It is also the latest appearance Jack Black, the comedic virtuoso of “School of Rock” and the band Tenacious D.

“Nacho Libre” is the story of Ignacio, a friar stuck in a dead-end job cooking for orphans at a Mexican convent. He dreams of becoming a famous luchadore, the local version of a professional wrestler, and gaining the glory and respect that comes with it. At night, he works the wrestling circuit as Nacho, an azure-tinted avenger with his inept and slightly feral sidekick, Esqueleto, played by Hector Jimenez. Inevitably, Ignacio’s secret life of professional wrestling conflicts with his real-world responsibilities as a cook.

Hess employs his signature uncomfortable moments and surreal situations that are well known from “Napoleon Dynamite” in “Nacho Libre.” An anticlimactic ending, loose plot threads, underutilized characters and directorial ADHD are all problems that plague both movies.

rather than seen as a whole. The whole is not the sum of the parts in this case. The many gags that comprise the movie should be appreciated from moment to moment, the way one would eat a bag of Reese’s Pieces. Bit by bit, they’re delicious. Try and eat the entire bag in one gulp, and it’s beastly.

Where directing may waver, the acting holds strong. Black plays Ignacio with his unique tongue-in-cheek intensity. His quixotic quest to become a luchadore is worthy of both ridicule and hurrahs. Hector Jimenez as Esqueleto works well, if Hess were aiming for a character somewhere between pathetic and creepy. The striking Ana de la Reguera does wonderfully as the unattainable love interest, Sister Encarnacion, even though Hess didn’t give her enough screen time. In his role as the villain and luchadore champion of the movie, Ramses, Cesar Gonzalez emotes like a latter-day Michael Myers of the original “Halloween.”

The movie’s strongest draw, outside of Black’s vivacity, is its unpredictability. There wasn’t a single time during the entire movie when I knew where a joke was going. The film skirts the borders of outright chaos. This is a welcome development from a cinematic world flooded with formulaic gags.

I give “Nacho Libre” 4 frybreads out of 5.



This shouldn’t be seen as a failing, though. Like “Napoleon Dynamite,” “Nacho Libre” is best viewed skit by skit,





# Sports ON THE SCENE

## No steroid testing planned for S.D. schools

BY BAXTER HOLMES  
Staff Writer

Instant gratification. Fame and glory. Dollar signs.

These are the things that coaches and athletes say push high school students toward illegal steroids.

In New Jersey, officials recently decided to make their state the first to require testing of high school athletes to make sure they don't emulate the professionals who have recently been investigated for steroid use or, like Jason Grimsley of the Arizona Diamondbacks, been caught.

In South Dakota, no such plan is in the works. The perception here, according to some coaches, athletes and athletic officials, is that steroids are less of a problem or that the testing is too expensive. Others disagree, and a national survey suggests the use of illegal steroids may be a bigger problem in South Dakota than in New Jersey.

"This starts at the high school level," said Ed Meierkort, head football coach at University of South Dakota. "Lets not kid ourselves ... kids don't just come to college and start juicing."

Anabolic steroids can lead to heart attacks, strokes, tumors, kidney failures and psychiatric problems, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Four of baseball's more famous hitters appeared before a congressional committee in May 2005 to discuss steroids. Controversy surrounds Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants who has been linked to steroid use by newspaper reports about a grand jury investigation. Bonds is currently chasing Hank Aaron's career home run record.

Matt Murphy, 22, played four years of football for Stevens High School in Rapid City, S.D. He doesn't think South Dakota has issues with steroids like New Jersey.

"Guys out there might sit around all day, watch TV and then go work out," Murphy



A weightlifter adds weight to his workout in the DakotaDome.

SARAH WELLIVER ■  
PHOTOGRAPHER

said. "Whereas here guys won't need to work out because they've been out on the farm all day."

Micah Watkins, a coach at a USD basketball camp, thinks South Dakota steroid use is low because of the South Dakotan lifestyle.

"With the blue-collar mentality that a lot of the families have," Watkins said, "the work ethic, there is not a lot of kids on steroids."

According to a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3.5 percent of South Dakota high school students admitted to using illegal steroids. In New Jersey, 2.4 percent of its high school students admitted to using illegal steroids.

South Dakota had 1,590 high school student responses to the survey, according to the South Dakota Department of Education. New Jersey had 1,495, according to the New Jersey Department of Education.

The number of students using illegal steroids may change relative to population, said USD's Meierkort. He added this might be why New Jersey appears to have more of a problem than South Dakota. More people, more users.

"I think once you get a large enough target group, it's as prevalent as anywhere else," Meierkort said. "Obviously when you go to New Jersey and test, you're dealing with 100 times the population, basically."

New Jersey had 230,000 high school athletes for 2005-06, according to the New Jersey Interscholastic Activities Association. South Dakota had 40,438 for 2004-05, according to Wayne Carney, the executive director for the South Dakota High School Activities Association. In 2004-05, about seven million high school students participated in athletics nationwide, according to a 2005 National Federation of State High School Associations survey.

Meierkort said it would be naive to think that steroid use isn't a problem in South Dakota.

"People who say otherwise," he said, "It's like saying your kids don't smoke weed. Yeah right."

Steroid use among high school athletes nationwide doubled from 3.1 percent to 6.2 percent from 1998-2003, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The numbers have since fallen, but more high-profile athletes have been caught with

steroids since. With recent news of steroids, this may be why schools have thought hard about a testing policy, Meierkort said.

Murphy, the USD football player from Steven High School, said a testing policy in South Dakota may change how athletes think about steroids.

"The thing it might do is bring steroids more into the limelight," Murphy said. You're going to say 'Hey, these things are doing so much for people that they're going to make them illegal,' and they'll say 'Well, if they're illegal then they got to do something for me.'"

High school athletes want to be stronger to give them a better chance at playing college sports. Steroids might make the difference between starting or not, between playing or not, and between receiving a scholarship or not, said Justiss Scales, outside linebacker for the USD football team. Scales, 22, transferred from Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington, Minn.

"Can't get big enough in time," Scales said. "I feel they probably had that conscience like 'I'm not going to be able to beat that kid out, so maybe if I cheat the system. And I'm pretty sure if I get humongous, then I can play something.'"

No school in the state has plans for steroid testing, Carney said, and there is no effort afoot to create a statewide policy. A steroid test can cost between \$150 and \$200, according to a June 8, 2006 USA Today article.

The expense of the procedure may be one reason why South Dakota hasn't pursued a steroid testing policy, Carney said.

Carney only knows of one South Dakota school interested in mandatory testing. Milbank High School wants to begin random drug tests on its athletes pending approval of its plan by the local board of education, Milbank principal Dan Snaza said.

Steroids will not be included in the test.

## Reds wash out Greys in Sox battle

BY BAXTER HOLMES  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — In the humid evening at Prentiss Park on Wednesday, the baseball stands are almost empty for the biggest rivalry in town.

Bragging rights were on the line with the Vermillion Red Sox hosting the Vermillion Grey Sox.

"If we get 10 people we're lucky," said Jim Merrigan, who runs the scoreboard. "If we get 50, we're overcrowded."

The Red Sox knocked off their in-town rivals 8-6 behind pitcher Josh Hanson, who threw a complete game.

The Red Sox took a 4-0 lead after the first inning, adding two runs in the second when Colby Lessmann hit a home run to right field. They scored their final runs in the sixth and led then, 8-3.

"We held them off this time," Lessman said.

The Grey Sox threatened in the eighth with Aaron Baedke's 2-run homer to dead center field, but Hanson retired five of the next six batters to end the game.

The teams are part of the South Dakota Stateline League. It is made up of six amateur teams with players 19 years and older. Their meeting Wednesday was their first of the season. A previously scheduled game was rained out.

The crowning achievement for both teams is a chance to play in the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Tournament, which hosts 48 teams, and is held in Mitchell, S.D.



These are not your average teams. Most of the players are in their 30s, some can't get rides to the game, almost all played college baseball at one point and none are being heavily scouted for the minor or major leagues.

They also share the same field and play 25-30 games a year.

It's all for fun.

"Play for free, play for fun," Jim Merrigan said. His son Jon plays first base for the Red Sox and Jim cheers him on every game.

The only paid employees are the kids who get a quarter for every foul ball and 50 cents for every home run ball.

After the game, the two coaches talk. The



Clockwise from top: Josh Hanson, of the Red Sox, pitches against the Grey Sox. Hanson, left, celebrates with coach Kirk Sorensen. Tim Zeeb, left, cheers Ryan Baedke, for catching a pop fly.

PHOTOS BY DEVIN WAGNER ■  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Red Sox may be short players for their next game and head coach Kirk Sorensen may need to borrow some from the Grey Sox.

Sorensen finds out which players won't be able to make the next game and tries to get rides for everyone else.

Lessmann said his head coach has suited up for the Red Sox a few times when they needed him.

Sharing players can sometimes be as confusing as sharing the field.

"We found next Wednesday that we both scheduled a home game," Lessmann said.



# A Kayak for Two

## Father and son take on the Missouri



PHOTOS BY SARAH WELLIVER

**Clockwise from top left: Louie, the river guide's dog, rests on the dock. Father and son, Dean and Eric Metz of Sioux Falls, paddle down the Missouri River. A tandem kayak floats atop the river. The two relax before beginning their Father's Day paddling trip. Chad Cadwell steadies the kayak as the Mertz's bring in their paddles.**

**BY BAXTER HOLMES**  
*Staff Writer*

Jason Vullmer kindly frowns at his son. He warns him only once more.

"Don't splash," Jason says to Sam, 13. The father can't help but smile. "I already had my bath this week."

Jason, the father in a family of five, splashes back at Sam's single kayak, but not too much so he and his son Jake don't flip their double kayak.

Jason, 39, and Sam had been kayaking before. It was nothing new. But for Jake, 11, the Missouri River would be as new to him this Father's Day, just as it was to Lewis and Clark when they floated it in the 1800s.

An old Ford B600 school bus pulls into the Mulberry Bend park near Vermillion, where the Vullmers and six other parties wait. The bus is painted white with murals on the side portraying happy kayakers. Chad Cadwell, owner of Missouri River Expeditions, shouts that it's time to go. Jake and Sam sit in the back with their mom, Rachelle, and dad.

The bus barrels down roads that split cornfields. Cottonseed falls like snow from the trees.

"It's great for clogging air conditioners," Jason says.

Jason, a volunteer fireman in Volin, S.D., had seen Chad give a kayaking demonstration a week before. He knew right then that his family would take part in the Father's Day Paddle.

The bus stops in a meadow close to the banks off the river and Chad gives his kayaking instructions. The kay-

akers don life jackets. He checks to make sure that all his customers are strapped into their kayaks before the group shoves off into the cool water.

Chad takes the early lead, but a double kayak closes fast.

"Slow down, Jake," father warns son from the back seat. "If you pass Chad, you get a speeding ticket."

Jake eases his rowing and settles in for the 10-mile downstream trip near the Nebraska-South Dakota border while his dad looks at the gathering storm clouds to the southwest.

"That doesn't look good," Jason says.

Almost as soon as the party takes to the river, Chad makes a cellphone call. He looks grim when he hears the news. The group stops at a sandbar, and Jake and Sam play while daddy looks on.

"Should we leave the kids here?" Jason jokes. "There's an island. They can play 'Survivor.'"

The two boys continue to wrestle in the water oblivious to the group looking on.

"Let's go," Jason screams from ashore. "We're leaving you here!"

Four and a half miles from the put-in, the group stops for lunch at a tepee. The two brothers scuffle and Sam throws the younger Jake into the water.

Then comes the law.

Jason drops his plate of pasta salad their guide Robin Morgan had prepared and joins in the fun. Sam turns from the river where he has just dunked his younger brother to find his father, waiting and grinning.

Dad avenges Jake and chucks Sam in the river, laughing the whole time.

Suddenly, the wind picks up.

Everyone watches the dark clouds above. Thunder rumbles. Trees sway and cottonseed zips by the group like a blizzard. Jason and Jake hop in their kayak and take off. They reverse direction and head upstream toward a dock on the other bank. Rain beats down on their faces as they struggle against the current of the Mighty Mo'.

"Never felt anything like that before," Jason says. short of breath after landing on the dock.

The father and son are tired and rest after the strain of paddling.

"His arms went spaghetti for awhile," Jason says. He looks at his 11-year-old son and smiles. They had done it. They beat the river.

"The day needed to end with an adventure, didn't it?" Jason says. "It beats laying in front of the TV or mowing the lawn."

The Vullmers board the bus and sit in the back after the draining trip. Jake and Sam go at it again.

"Knock it off you two," Jason says, only half-kidding.

"I didn't do anything," Jake pleads. The family laughs.

Chad drives the group back to Mulberry Bend.

"We'll have to do a Mother's Day Paddle, Chad," Jason tells the driver.

"Yeah! Right on....When's Mother's Day?"

"May."

"Okay, next year."





Clockwise from top: Trish (left) 44, Shannon, 15, Jim, 38, and Nick Fox, 8, all of Geneseo, Ill., walk up Spirit Mound near Vermillion Monday. The sun slowly drops toward the horizon. A Dickcissel perches in Spirit Mound Historic Prairie. Sunflowers bloom. Jim Heisinger, 70, of Vermillion, examines some of the native plant life. Heisinger is the president of the Spirit Mound Trust, which raised the money to purchase and restore the mound.



# Chasing Spirits

Mysteries of the tall grass lure explorers still

PHOTOS AND STORY  
BY DEVIN WAGNER

An area once thought to be inhabited by 18-inch spirits that would kill anyone who came near is what took Lewis and Clark nine miles away from the Missouri River in 1804.

It was late August when the men made that first trip to the summit of Paha Wakan, now called Spirit Mound. The grasses were well over five feet tall, wildflowers were in full bloom and birds were numerous, feasting on swarms of insects.

"This is what it was like when Lewis and Clark were here," said Jim Heisinger, president of the Spirit Mound Trust.

The trust first began its goal to convert the 320-acre agricultural site back to a functional tallgrass prairie in August 1986. Now, 20 years later, that goal has almost been accomplished.

There are more than 80 tall grass prairie species and native wildflowers flourishing in the area.

"We're working on trying to promote the appreciation of nature out here," Heisinger said.



# Seigenthaler fights 'lies and libel' on Wikipedia

Former editor denounces his 'false, false, false' biography on the site and his inability to have the content deleted

BY AIJI STUDENTS

VERMILLION, S.D. — The popular Web site Wikipedia endangers First Amendment freedoms of expression, said one of the online encyclopedia's targets of its "lies and libel."

Wikipedia's "willingness to permit posting of defamatory and obscene content in articles and biographies ... will attract

unwanted government regulation," former editor and publisher John Seigenthaler said in a speech June 6. "If they get it, Wikipedia will have done damage to First Amendment rights and values" of free expression.

Seigenthaler described his and three other celebrities' "false, false, false" and "vicious, vindictive and vulgar" biographies on Wikipedia and his inability to have the content permanently deleted from the

Web site.

Seigenthaler spoke to about 30 students, faculty and others associated with the American Indian Journalism Institute here. Seigenthaler is founder of the First Amendment Center, former editor and publisher of The Tennessean newspaper in Nashville and former editorial director of USA Today.

PLEASE SEE WIKIPEDIA, PAGE 8

## Life U



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elder Hatch, center, reads a passage from the Book of Mormon to Emmanuel Tarway, right, in his apartment in Sioux Falls.

## 'There are happy endings'

Abbott's kidney donation to King offers hope and a future

BY LINA MILLER  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — Bruce King and Jim Abbott sat next to each other in the pre-op room of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Jim grabbed a magazine and muttered something about home remodeling.

"We were both just trying to get mentally ready," explained Bruce in the weeks after he and Jim talked in pre-op. "We just kept it pretty normal. We kept it light. We didn't want to get too deep."

Bruce's kidneys failed two years ago, and during his time as chief diversity officer at the University of South Dakota, he had undergone dialysis. On June 4, he received a healthy kidney from Jim, his boss, president of USD.

The interaction between the men before major transplant surgery seemed as causal as if they waited for a teeth cleaning in a dentist's office. But the procedure could save Bruce's life.

\*\*\*

Bruce's mind raced as he and his wife, Marcine, neared Rochester June 3, Sunday before the surgery. Would there be any complications? Would his body reject the kidney? Would his children be all right without him while he recovered in Minnesota?

At the same time, Jim and his wife, Collette Abbott, were nearing the clinic. The Abbotts know more about kidney surgery than most families. Collette's brother, her father, and Jim's best friend from college all had kidney surgery. All three operations went smoothly, and that helped push Jim to donate.

After blood tests revealed he and Bruce could be a match, Jim made a commitment to lose weight and control his blood pressure. When the match was confirmed, Bruce began taking the anti-rejection pills he would need for the rest of his life.

\*\*\*

The day of the surgery, their wives stayed by their sides until doctors sent them away.

Bruce and Marcine prayed before the nurses took him to the pre-op room. They kissed, smiled and reassured each other that everything would be fine.

In the meantime, Jim and Collette

## Finding their own way

BY CHARLES PULLIAM  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — They created their own paths.

Reporters at the American Indian Journalism Institute sought to tell the stories of six young people who chose an indirect route to college — or no college at all.

"Individual choice has a lot to do with what a student does after high school," said George Henry, a Dell Rapids High School counselor for more than 30 years.

In South Dakota 24.7 percent of people over the age of 25 had completed bachelor's degrees according to the 2005 U.S. Census estimates. The U.S. average is 27.2 percent.

Henry said he emphasizes pursuing a college degree immediately after high school, but other options are out there.

"We do have students who just go directly into the work force," Henry said. "Eighty-five percent of jobs out there don't require a four-year college degree."

"I do a lot of career planning with students."

These are a few who took detours:

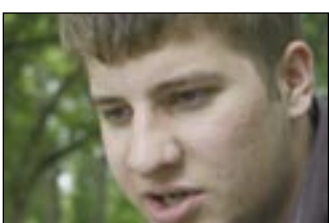
**Deanna Spielman**, 21, of Yankton, is a single-mother who left high school in 2005 when she found out she was pregnant. On Saturday, she received her GED and plans to major in nursing at the University of South Dakota.

**Elizabeth Johnson**, 21, graduated from Brandon High School and began coursework on a nursing degree at South Dakota State University. She detoured after two years and is attending Stewart School in Sioux Falls for cosmetology.

**Jeff Rehan**, 21, graduated from East High School in Sioux City, Iowa, and enlisted in the Army less than two weeks later. His yearlong tour in Iraq ended in December 2006.

**Taylor Birgen**, 22, attended Mitchell Technical Institute after graduating from Vermillion High School in 2003. He is working at the Cherry Street Grille in Vermillion, pursuing a passion for cooking.

Elders **Keith Hatch** and **Josh Wright**, both 19, are on missions in Sioux Falls for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Each delayed higher education for the religious path.



## Native Journal online

□ To see more of the Life U project, go to reznat (www.reznatnews.org) to view four videos and an audio slideshow. Visit the reznat Web site for online versions of the stories in this edition of the Native Journal, as well as video, audio slideshows and blogs from the 2007 American Indian Journalism Institute.



PLEASE SEE DONATION, PAGE 8





# 'An instrument in God's hands'

## Lesson learned: Not everyone is ready for the message

BY LINA MILLER  
Staff Writer

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D.** — Elder Josh Wright would have preferred that God's call had sent him to Italy or France, or that he could have shared his piano playing along with God's teachings.

Instead, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints missionary ended up in Sioux Falls.

"I'm just an instrument in God's hands," the 19-year-old Salt Lake City native says. "I firmly believe that. Where you are called to is inspired. The prophet chooses where you're going. He is led by God, and I firmly believe that."

The life of a missionary isn't always easy. Elder Wright and Elder Keith Hatch will call Sioux Falls home for the next two years. They've put aside their passions and interest, moved far from their families and often face rejection, with only their faith to guide them.

The ubiquitous missionaries wear crisp white shirts, dark slacks and plain, dark ties, walking or biking down streets and through neighborhoods. They usually clutch the Book of Mormon and always are ready to discuss their beliefs — even if people are not ready to hear about them.

"There are times when we'll be out all day long ... and we won't talk to anybody," said Elder Keith Hatch, Wright's roommate and fellow missionary. "We just have to learn that some are ready to learn about Jesus Christ, and some aren't."

Hatch, 19, of Colonia Juarez, Mexico, was born into a Mormon family. He participated in church youth activities and spent time with people who shared his faith.

"I just try to live my life keeping the standards that we've been raised with," Hatch said.

When Hatch received his mission call, he had already applied for college and registered for classes. He decided to complete his two-year mission before attending college.

"What spurred my desire to come was simply wanting people to have that same happiness that I have in my life," Hatch said.

Though he misses family, weddings and newborn babies, he feels he gains much more, and is propelled by a sense of urgency to get as much done in his two-year service as he can. This experience, he explains, helps him to gain appreciation for the things that really matter.

"Seeing people accept Jesus Christ into their lives is the highlight," Hatch said.

Like Hatch, Wright was born into the church, and he also delayed completing college to serve his mission. His family let him choose whether to go on a mission, but he felt obligated, though it meant sacrificing his passion: playing and teaching piano.

Wright has played piano since he was 5 years old. By the time he was 10, he was playing in a symphony orchestra. He attended the University of Utah, studying and teaching piano, and was a year away from starting his master's degree.

"My love for Christ is more than my love for anything else," Wright said.

*Lina Miller is a student at the University of Montana.*



Clockwise from top: Elder Hatch, left, knocks on an apartment door during his rounds with Elder Wright in Sioux Falls. Elder Hatch, right, sings a hymn while Elder Wright plays the piano at their church in Sioux Falls. Elders Wright and Hatch, from left, pray with Emmanuel Tarway in his apartment. Clockwise from bottom left, Elders Echeverra, Page, Graham, Hatch, Wright and Harris convene for a weekly meeting at their church. Elder Wright has been playing the piano since childhood and started playing in orchestras when he was 10 years old.

PHOTOS BY  
DEVIN WAGNER





PRINCELLA PARKER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JEFF REHAN



PRINCELLA PARKER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Back from the war, a soldier adjusts to life in America 'No one is trying to kill you'



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JEFF REHAN

**Clockwise from top left: Jeff Rehan spends time with friends on June 19. While in Iraq, Rehan says, he took candy to children. Being back in America has been a "culture shock," Rehan says. He was a specialist with the 4th Infantry Division.**

BY NANCY KELSEY  
Staff Writer

**SIOUX CITY, IOWA** — Jeff Rehan drives through the streets in his red Grand Prix instead of his much larger Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

He's had to accept that sandbags at construction sites aren't deadly roadside bombs. He's adjusted to feeling unprotected without his hundred pounds of equipment. He's getting used to people

greeting him, rather than shooting at him. "It's hard to get used to the fact that no one is trying to kill you," Rehan said Monday. "Everybody takes for granted what kind of country this is."

Rehan, 21, returned from Baghdad in December and has been trying to appreciate "the little stuff" Americans take for granted everyday, he said.

Bacon Creek Park takes Rehan back to the more carefree days of his childhood. The original playground equipment is the same as when he played here as a boy. A rusty blue-and-yellow merry-go-round reminds him of family picnics. But even then, the armed services were not too distant a thought.

"My entire life, since I was a kid, I wanted to join the service," Rehan said.

Twelve days after he graduated from East High School, Rehan joined the Army.

He wanted to go to college someday but knew that would require loans, he said. He

also knew he wasn't ready for college. The war "forced me to grow up."

"You do go in a boy," Rehan said, "not knowing anything about anything and you come out with all this perspective. I have the next six years of my life planned."

Rehan works now at a bank where he takes credit card applications over the phone. He joined the Air National Guard, which puts him at service status, instead of active duty, which means he cannot be deployed back to Iraq. Rehan will attend Iowa State University in the fall to major in engineering.

His journey with the armed forces began when he was sent to Fort Hood, Texas, for training. In Iraq, his missions varied from finding caches of weapons to standard patrols. Rehan was a specialist in the 4th Infantry Division. The area he was in, southeast Baghdad just north of Mahmudiyah, was considered among the most dangerous, he said.

In Iraq, he took candy to children and supplies to schools.

"Even the poor people in America have so much...compared to over there," he said. "You have freedom over here."

It has been six months since his return. This is the time, Army officials have told him, that signs of post-traumatic stress disorder typically would appear. So far, he said, so good.

But Rehan acknowledges that bad flashback dreams sometimes keep him from sound sleep. Some nights, without even opening his eyes, he reaches for his rifle only to find himself safely in the silent calm of his Sioux City apartment.

He now lives in a one-bedroom apartment in the basement of a large white house that he shares with his family instead of living in a room shared by dozens of other guys. Coming

home, he said, is "a culture shock."

Despite those moments of rough adjustment to civilian life, he is thankful, he said. Remembering the 21 men he knew who died in combat reinforces his sentiments.

"All of us would die for our country. None of us wanted to," he said. "If these men are forgotten that means there's something wrong."

The war – from the people he met to the hours spent patrolling streets in a Humvee – is something he never wants to forget, as is evident by the dozens of clips he captured with his video camera. He made copies for others in his company. He gave some to families of soldiers who didn't come home alive.

The kindness he showed those families is echoed by the kindness others have shown him since he came home.

"I was in the airport, and I wanted a damn doughnut," he said. "My debit card didn't work, and someone bought it for me."

Rehan didn't want anyone to pay for it, he said. He told the man there was no need, that he could live without a doughnut. The man stopped him and said he wanted to do that small thing as a thank-you for all that Rehan had done for the country.

What happened during the war and what happened when he came back are, for Rehan, worthwhile and unforgettable.

"I'm going to remember this for the rest of my life," Rehan said. "I wanted to be part of history. I'm a better person for all of this happening."

*Nancy Kelsey, Little River Band of Ottawa, is a student at the University of Nebraska.*





Deanna Spielman overcame obstacles to receive her GED. She is a mother who sets her personal goals high, no matter what the distance.

AIJI Photo Illustration

# Don't ever quit because it's not worth it

## Single mother with GED sets sights on nursing degree

BY JORDAN DRESSER  
Staff Writer

**YANKTON, S.D.** — During her graduation speech, Deanna Spielman burst into tears at a mere glance from her mother.

"Just the look on her face she gave me," Spielman, 21, said. "I just started crying 'cause I know sometimes she thinks I'm a pain in the butt, but she'll always be there for me."

Five other graduates joined Spielman on June 16 to celebrate the award of their general equivalency diplomas, or GEDs. At the ceremony in a community room at the Technical Education Center here, graduates wore blue gowns and caps. Teresa Szakats, a training specialist with Southeast Job Link, a South Dakota learning center, asked Spielman to speak.

Spielman had no prepared text but gave fellow graduates and a small crowd of family and friends a message from her own experience:

"Don't ever quit because it's not worth it."

Once, Spielman did quit.

She told that story a few days after

graduation while sitting in her one-story, rented yellow house, where she lives with her son, Justin, 2.

Spielman said she became pregnant during her senior year of high school in Crofton, Neb. One day, three months into the pregnancy with not enough credits to graduate, she said, she decided to empty her locker and never return. While leaving, she said, she thought, "This is the biggest mistake of your life, and you're going to regret it."

After Justin was born, the two moved into an apartment with Justin's father, Spielman said. She worked as a waitress and in a factory. But when Justin's father left, Spielman said, she became fed up with low-paying jobs and decided to study for the GED.

In January, Spielman started GED and certified nursing classes earning a nursing assistant certificate in May and graduating with her GED. Juggling Justin and school was a challenge, Spielman said, but day care, her mother and boyfriend helped.

A full-time mom's schedule allows little sleep, Spielman said. She spends most of her time doing laundry, cooking, cleaning

and taking care of her dog and her son, she added.

"It's kind of crazy around here sometimes," Spielman said.

Spielman, who plans to start nursing classes this fall at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, said watching how nurses cared for her father when he died of cancer in 2005 inspired her.

"I want to help people because I saw how good they were with him," she said.

Spielman expressed concern about the length of the 23-mile drive from Yankton to Vermillion and the risk of being late to class. Justin might get sick, she said, causing her to miss class. She said she knows she can count on her boyfriend, adding that he loves Justin as if the boy were his own.

Spielman now values education, she said, and wants Justin to know that so he won't make her mistakes.

"I don't want my son to grow up without nice things," she said. "I just want to be the best for him."

*Jordan Dresser, Northern Arapahoe, is a student at the University of Wyoming.*



## Full-speed ahead at basketball camp

Players continue practicing in the Dakota Dome at the University of South Dakota during camp, despite the construction around them.

CANDACE BEGODY ■  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



## Native Journal

Reported, written, photographed and edited by students of the American Indian Journalism Institute, a joint academic program of the Freedom Forum and the University of South Dakota.

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Al Neuharth Media Center  
555 Dakota St.  
Vermillion, S.D. 57069  
e-mail:  
jmarsh@freedomforum.org  
605-677-6315  
www.freedomforum.org

### Editing students:

Christie Cooke, Navajo; Troy Doney, Assiniboine; Victoria Jackson-Dick, Paiute-Shoshone; Melissa Morgan, Ely Shoshone

### Multimedia students:

Martina Lee, Navajo; Princella Parker, Omaha; Breanna Roy, Blackfeet/Cree; Jasa Santos, Salish; Devin Wagner, Crow

### Reporting students:

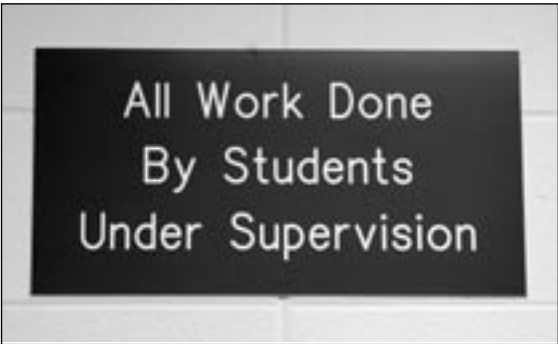
Ellen M. Feuerhelm, Turtle Mountain & Metis; Andrea Murphy, Navajo; Charles Pulliam, Aleut; Neda Spotted Wolf, Hidatsa/Chippewa; Jacquelyne Taurianen, Sault Ste. Marie; Amanda Teller, Navajo; Sandra White Shield, Rosebud Lakota; Candace Begody, Navajo; Jordan Dresser, Northern Arapahoe; Tesina Jackson, Cherokee; Nancy Kelsey, Little River Band of Ottawa; Lina Miller

**Publisher:** Jack Marsh, executive director, Al Neuharth Media Center

### AIJI faculty and Native Journal editors:

Kevin Abourezk, Chuck Baldwin, Michael Downs, Tetona Dunlap, Bill Elsen, Craig Henry, Val Hoepfner, Kelly Johnson, Carl Juste, Courtney Lowery, Denny McAuliffe, Victor Merina, Paige Parker, Jay Wang





From top to bottom: A dummy sits awaiting its fate. Elizabeth Johnson styles hair of a real customer. The floor of Stewart School for Cosmetology and Beauty. A license issued to Johnson that certifies her as a student of cosmetology.

PHOTOS BY  
JASA SANTOS



# Student missed nursing career by a hair

## French braids paved way to cosmetology school

BY TESINA JACKSON  
Staff Writer

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D.** — At first, she wanted to be a nurse. It was after her grandma taught her how to French braid that she began to change her mind.

Elizabeth Johnson was 15, a sophomore in high school, when her grandmother first French-braided her hair. With each braid after that, Johnson became more and more interested in the world of hair.

Her mom owned a day care where Johnson practiced braiding the children's hair.

"After braiding little kids' hair I would start to braid my sister's hair and all of her friends' hair for their softball games," she said. "After the tenth grade I had my mind set on becoming a cosmetologist."

But Johnson still wanted to attend college to see what college life was like. Johnson, 21, enrolled in South Dakota State University. Two years into college and a month into her initial nursing classes, she began to reconsider.

"I took the anatomy class, and I was like, no, this isn't for me," she said. "I liked living in the dorm and hanging out, but I just had my mind set on cosmetology."

Working as a local salon receptionist, she was reminded of what she really wanted. When it came time to leave SDSU, her family, and especially her grandmother, supported her decision to pursue cosmetology.

"They said it was something I should've done in the first place," she said.

She applied to a variety of schools and was accepted to the Paul Mitchell cosmetology school in California, but decided to stay home where she could learn about hair for a lot less money.

Johnson started at the Stewart School for Cosmetology and Beauty in Sioux Falls last September and will

graduate this upcoming September.

The Stewart school has 120 students enrolled, said Angi Marso, senior instructor.

During the first ten weeks at the cosmetology school, Johnson was required to take classes and tests in manicures, how to mix and apply highlights and perm chemicals, and how to cut hair.

Johnson has class once a week and studies more advanced techniques in the same subjects. She also takes a business class.

Aside from going to cosmetology school, Johnson works as a waitress at Tailgators Sports Bar and Grill in Brandon, and as a receptionist at Accents Hair Salon in Sioux Falls.

"I don't get paid at the cosmetology school, but I can accept tips," she said. "I have to make some money to pay back some student loans."

That was the only bad thing about going to SDSU, she said.

After her first 10 weeks, Johnson could work with customers and cut hair. She referred to it as "getting thrown in the real world."

That world is filled with hair, exotic smells, chaos and chatter. It's where customers get the chance to be primped and pretty. It's where the smell of perm and highlight solution fill the air, hair dryers and music are in the background, and small talk and laughter fill the room.

"I was so nervous and scared my first day on the floor," she said. "But my parents came in and surprised me. I got to cut both of their hair before my actual first customer. They got the jitters out of me."

Johnson plans to have her own salon within five years, she said.

"It's a talent that I have, and no one else has it," she said. "No one can take it away from me."

*Tesina Jackson, Cherokee, is a student at Ball State University.*





# Home is where the grill is

## Former dishwasher kicks it up a notch at a local restaurant



BY CANDACE BEGODY  
Staff writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — Taylor Birgen went from washing dishes to making them.

Birgen, who was a dishwasher at the Cherry Street Grille during high school, received his culinary arts certification in 2004 from Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D. He graduated from Vermillion High School in 2003.

"I really, really enjoyed peoples' reaction to my food," the 22-year-old said in his mother's Vermillion home. "When they say that it's the best thing they've ever had, that makes me feel good. So it was a good road for me to take."

Birgen said he decided on Mitchell Technical, after finding out that four-year public schools cost more.

After working in Sioux Falls at Foley's restaurant, Oaks Hotel as a pastry chef, The Olive Garden, and then World Imports Pub & Eatery, Birgen returned to the grill in December.

He now works 50 hours a week: five night shifts and two day shifts.

Birgen, one of the owners of World Imports in Sioux Falls, said he makes weekly trips to check up on the place and bartends there once a month.

He said he hopes to open his own restaurant. It would be "fine dining with fancy white cloth, candle lit dinners, exotic foods, extravagant desserts and lots of fancy wines," he said. "Me and a few others will be doing all the entrees."

Whether catering for his mom, his friends, or the rest of his family, he said Cajun chicken pasta and cheesecake are his favorite dishes to make.

"He makes amazing cheesecake," said his mother, Connie Birgen. "It's something he's always been proud of. No one can turn it down. You just have to have it."

Birgen said he hopes to memorize 1,000 recipes and some cheesecakes are among those he knows by heart.

Others include Cajun chicken pasta, baked potato pizza, caramelized bananas over ice cream and rosemary garlic steak.

"But with the recipes, I can make anything," he said.

"Anything" includes burgers on buns or chocolate-chip pancakes at the grill, but at home the next night Birgen relaxed by setting out utensils, spices and ingredients precisely, before preparing Cajun chicken pasta.

Birgen said being certified makes it easy for other chefs to assume he knows everything about the kitchen and his simple mistakes draw jeers.

"Because I went to school," Birgen said, cooks at Foley's and The Olive Garden, "would say 'Oh Mr.-Culinary-Arts-Guy messed up again.' They think I'm perfect."

"I just tell myself over and over that I'm not perfect, learn from it and correct the mistake. I know I'm good at what I do."

Birgen said Vermillion is home for the next six months, but he plans to move to Colorado once enough money is saved up.

"It's such a pretty place," he said about Colorado. "The people are nice and there are a lot of resorts that I can work at."

Ultimately, Birgen wants to help others. "This is exciting to me. I strive hard to be good at what I do, I love cooking, and I hope to teach someone to make awesome food," he said.

*Candace Begody, Navajo, is a student at the University of Arizona.*

**From top to bottom: The Cherry Street Grille, where Taylor Birgen works 50 hours a week. Birgen, 22, prepares a typical breakfast order on June 20. On Wednesdays, he also prepares food for the restaurant's catering service. He checks an order at the Cherry Street Grille. Birgen cooks an omelet. Birgen has mastered all 101 omelet recipes the restaurant offers.**



### Taylor Birgen's Cajun Chicken Pasta

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 chicken breast
- 1 sliced bell pepper
- 6 oz. tortellini noodles
- 4 oz. or 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream (Land o' Lakes)
- 1 tablespoon of garlic (fresh or dry)
- 3 ounces of white wine
- Poultry Magic chicken seasoning (enough to cover chicken)
- 4 oz. parmesan cheese
- 3 slices of American cheese

Linguini noodles may be substituted for tortellini; you may also add sliced carrots and broccoli for flavor and color.

Precook the noodles until al dente, firm to the bite  
Heat olive oil over medium heat (3 minutes)  
Roll the chicken in Poultry Magic seasoning  
Saute the chicken in pan with garlic  
After the chicken is partially cooked, add peppers  
When the chicken is fully cooked, add wine  
Simmer for one minute  
Add cream and cheeses; reduce for two minutes  
Add noodles; simmer for 1 minute.  
Makes one serving

Enjoy!

PHOTOS BY  
BREANNA ROY



# Dog lovers rally after officer shoots Labrador retriever

By JACQUELYNE TAURIANEN  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — Residents are organizing to prove that a dog's bark might be worse than his bite.

City police were called after a passer-by reported that a dog bit her leg in front of a trailer in Cottage Villa Trailer Court on April 23. Eventually, an officer shot and killed the dog, which belonged to Terri Peterson, the trailer owner who works as a dog sitter.

Police gave this account of the incident:

At the scene, police Sgt. Ryan Hough and Officer Jason Bachman saw Patches, an 8-year-old Labrador retriever, chasing people who were riding bicycles or walking in the area. When the officers approached the trailer, the dog became very aggressive.

Hough told Peterson that she needed to control the dog. Peterson said she could not, and Bachman attempted unsuccessfully to corral it outdoors.

Peterson was asked to provide vaccine documentation. Farrel Christensen of the city's Code Enforcement division arrived. When Patches advanced aggressively toward Hough and Christensen, Hough fired five shots from his Glock handgun, killing the dog.

In an interview this week, Peterson said that Patches had been let out accidentally and that one of her dog-sitting clients had left two fences open.

"I couldn't control my dog because once he gets out, he runs," she said. "He thinks it's a game. I could contain him, just not control him."

Peterson, who said she had considered filing suit after the shooting, said police "asked me to go inside to find some documents, leaving Patches alone and out of his comfort zone. That is when they killed him."

Although Peterson described Patches as a "gentle soul" who spent his life



**Terri Peterson stands over the place where she buried her black lab Patches after the dog was shot by police on April 23.**

DEVIN WAGNER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

around people and animals, she said he "has bitten before, but they were tentative bites only meant to scare and not cause harm." Those bites occurred after he had been teased, she added.

Peterson helped to start a campaign called People for Patches and said she is in counseling for a stress disorder. The 40-member group seeks to end what it terms wrongful treatment of animals, she said. "We just want to make sure this doesn't happen to another family," Peterson said.

"It is every person's loss, not just mine," she added.

Julie Rae Hammontree, coordinator of People for Patches, said Peterson "understands the responsibility she has for her dog. Whether it is a car, yard, child or dog, every owner has responsibility, but sometimes things happen."



The group's primary concerns deal with training officials to control animals and ensuring that they have better equipment, Hammontree said.

The campaign seeks money from grants, local and regional donations and product sales at events around town. "Our first project is to raise \$4,000 for a net gun to assist

in safe capture," Hammontree said. "Anything would be better than what we have now."

The group has started a phone tree of members to assist in finding missing animals, Peterson said.

Hammontree stressed that Patches for People is not criticizing the police department.

"It's uncomfortable to be placed on the defense, but we expect it every time we take action," said Capt. Chad Passick, assistant to Police Chief Art Mabry and a Vermillion native. "We hope the group will do positive things for the community, and so far they have," he added.

*Jacquelyne Taurianen, Sault Ste. Marie, is a student at the University of Michigan.*

## College degrees don't always guarantee jobs on reservations

### Certain skills enhance careers when graduates return home

By JORDAN DRESSER  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — In 2002, after graduating from the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Jeremy Perry began a job hunt that proved to be difficult on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

"It was hard right off the bat," said Perry, 30, a member of the Eastern Shoshone tribe. "It was really frustrating because it was so limited."

Many American Indian college students who earn degrees yearn to return home after graduation, eager to be close again to friends and family and use knowledge gained while away. But finding a career on their reservations can involve frustration, anxiety and disappointment.

Perry returned to his reservation in Fort Washakie, Wyo., where 7 percent of residents have a bachelor's degree and 42.7 percent live below the poverty level, according to the 2000 Census. Many graduates who come through the human resources office of the Eastern Shoshone tribe there tell stories similar to Perry's, said Shelley Garvin, director of the office.

Garvin said that the percentages are common on remote reservations where few jobs are available and that most returning graduates work at various jobs that have little to do with their major.

Home to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, the reservation in northwest Wyoming is about 160 miles northwest of Casper.

Perry, who has a bachelor's degree in

communications, said he applied first to many local radio stations but they offered only low-paying, part-time positions.

After applying for jobs on and off the reservation for three months, Perry said, he found a mentoring position at the Boys and Girls Club of the Eastern Shoshone in Fort Washakie. While glad to have found a job, he said his degree was underutilized.

After working for three years in several jobs, he found his current position is planner for the Eastern Shoshone.

"I think I am pretty lucky to be where I am at because there is no telling where I would be," Perry said. "Hard work pays off."

Accounting, business administration and nursing degrees are in demand, Garvin said. Job prospects will improve with the planned August opening of the Eastern Shoshone tribal casino, she said.

At the University of Wyoming, approximately 100 American Indian students pursue many majors, including early childhood education, nursing, anthropology and criminal justice, said Judith Antell, director of American Indian Studies.

Perry's sister, Lisa, graduated from UW with a degree in rangeland ecology and watershed management in 2006. Within a month, she said she found her dream job as the agriculture and natural resource area educator for the university's Cooperative Extension Service.

Jola Wallowing Bull, a 2006 graduate, had a similar experience, becoming the first enrolled Northern Arapaho woman to earn an architecture engineering degree with

an emphasis in structure. After returning home, she said, she found an engineering job with Northern Arapaho Utilities.

But if every college graduate's return to the reservation is to be as meaningful, Jeremy Perry said, tribes must offer students job guarantees.

"You have to give them something to look forward to," he said, adding that many people leave "because there is nothing here."

Many American Indian students fear not finding a job but don't often say so, said Michelle Pasena, outreach coordinator for the American Indian Graduate Center in Albuquerque, N.M.

She said tribes can help students by telling them what careers would most help the tribe and listen to their concerns. "I think a lot of tribes are taking those steps to understand their students," Pasena said.

College graduates shouldn't be afraid to explore careers outside the reservation, Garvin said. "I think everybody needs to get off the reservation and know what it's like to live in the outside world," Garvin said. "You can gain some experience and then come back."

But when students leave the reservation, they sometimes struggle to make the transition back home.

Shawn Secatero said he always dreamed of returning to the Navajo Nation as a teacher, so he earned a master's degree in secondary education from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. But his seven-year stint on the reservation as a language arts teacher left him disillusioned

and frustrated.

"A lot of people treated me different," Secatero said. "I was isolated. People thought I was trying to be better than others. I lost a lot of friendships."

Seeing fellow employees with no college training gain promotion, Secatero said, prompted his decision to leave and work with Pasena at the American Indian Graduate Center as coordinator of student services. "I just said, 'Enough is enough.' "

The Navajo Nation needs graduates in business administration, law, teaching, architecture and anthropology, according to the tribe's office of scholarship and financial assistance.

Even with her master's degree in educational leadership, personal considerations and the Navajo reservation's low-paying jobs have kept Tia Tsosie-Begay from returning home.

"I feel torn," said Tsosie-Begay, who graduated in May from the University of Arizona. "I know I need to return to the reservation. I have an obligation to return. You get so used to living off the reservation. It just gets harder and harder. I feel guilty."

Tsosie-Begay said she deals with such guilt by working toward her goal of opening a private school on the reservation to prepare students for college.

"I am optimistic that I still have a chance to learn my language and culture," she said. "I still have that opportunity."

*Jordan Dresser, Northern Arapahoe, is a student at the University of Wyoming.*



# Seigenthaler fights 'lies and libel' on Wikipedia

## WIKIPEDIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

But 20 months ago, he said, he discovered something he compared to “lifting the lid from a running sewer.” His Wikipedia biography stated, “For a brief time (Seigenthaler) was thought to have been directly involved in the Kennedy assassinations of both John and his brother Bobby.” Seigenthaler had worked as an assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy during President Kennedy’s administration in the early 1960s.

“This five-sentence biography also said that I had defected to the Soviet Union for a dozen years,” Seigenthaler said.

“I was angry,” he said.

In his pursuit “to unmask (his) anonymous biographer and confront him,” Seigenthaler discovered that Wikipedia is not your father’s encyclopedia, in several “troubling ways.”

“Anybody, without any knowledge or special expertise or access to facts, can write or contribute to a biography or an article and get it posted, or published, on Wikipedia,” Seigenthaler said. “There is no requirement that you know anything at all about the subject ... What you post or publish does not have to be factual, or fair, or true.”

And once material is put on the site, Wikipedia will not permanently delete it, Seigenthaler said.

“Wikipedia never gets rid of its errors,” Seigenthaler said. “They never are killed. They live forever either in Wikipedia history pages, where everybody has access to them, or in the Wikipedia archive where access is limited to (Wikipedia creator Jimmy) Wales and 1,200 of his trusted editors.”

Federal privacy law allows Wikipedia to protect the identity of people who post libelous material—and, as an Internet service provider, it can’t be sued under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, Seigenthaler said.

And Wikipedia didn’t single him out.

On a large screen behind him, Seigenthaler showed the audience slide after slide, in large white letters against a royal blue background, of obscenity-filled statements in the Wikipedia biographies of the comedian Sinbad, columnist Ann Coulter and golfer Fuzzy Zoeller.



ELLEN M. FEUERHELM ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**John Seigenthaler, founder of the First Amendment Center, has had "more than 100 false and mean-spirited postings" about him on the popular Web site Wikipedia.**

Before displaying the first slide, he warned audience members “to avert or cover your eyes” if they found the material too explicit.

AJJI reporters made repeated but unsuccessful attempts to reach Wales, Coulter, Sinbad and Zoeller for comment.

Seigenthaler wrote about his battle with Wikipedia in USA Today, leading the writer of his biography to contact and apologize to him a short time before Christmas 2005. He was a Nashville deliveryman, Brian Chase, who said he wrote the entries as a joke.

But the publicity also led to “more than 100 false and mean-spirited postings about me” on the Web site. Seigenthaler showed several of the obscenity-strewn comments on the screen behind him during his speech, including some posted as recently as early June.

He said the potential damage of the incident extended far beyond people’s reputation. It has the risk of harming the First

Amendment.

“Legislation restricting freedom of expression is antithetical to the Amendment that begins with the words, ‘Congress shall make no law...’ ” But Seigenthaler said he worries that “as word spreads of Wikipedia’s abuses of ethics (and) its unwillingness to be accountable ... public opinion and outraged citizens and politicians will demand” that the Web site be regulated.

Wikipedia creator “Jimmy Wales should clean up his Web site,” Seigenthaler said. “Abuse this right of free expression—and Wales and Wikipedia and many other Web sites and bloggers do—and we risk losing it. Wikipedia, without ethical standards, risks every citizen’s right to free expression.”

Audience members expressed support for Seigenthaler’s efforts to clean up Wikipedia.

“Saying all these awful and untrue things about people and letting the world see it ... it’s crazy,” AJJI student Jordan

Dresser said.

Many students said they already knew Wikipedia was an unreliable source. Seeing some of the profanities shown on the screen really brought the point home for them, they said.

Student Amanda Teller said she thought the laws protecting Wikipedia are unfair. “It does not protect the people that are in Wikipedia,” she said.

Janine Harris, assistant to AJJI director Jack Marsh, urged researchers to be careful about where they get their sources. She said she was disgusted to read the offensive material on the screen.

“It’s just downright mean,” Harris said.

*Reporters Neda Spotted Wolf, Charles Pulliam, Jacquelyne Taurianen, Andrea Murphy, Amanda Teller, Sandra White Shield and Ellen M. Feuerhelm of the American Indian Journalism Institute contributed to this report.*

# Abbott's gift of kidney to King offers hope and a future

## DONATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

were convinced that this was just another surgery. He was ready.

Jim was taken to surgery first. The doctors gave him a pre-anesthesia tranquilizer and that was the last thing he remembered.

Shortly after, Bruce’s hospital bed was pushed through the hallways. He had been waiting for this moment, through two years of dialysis and failing health.

“You start to turn inward,” Bruce said later. “For me it was important to find an inner place ... a place where I could find a little peace.”

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Jim woke slowly. His stomach hurt, and he wanted to know how much pain he would have in the next few days. His wife stayed close by.

Bruce woke in a tired, dreamy state. He wanted to snap out of it so badly, he wanted to be alert, but he could barely keep his eyes open. The nurse asked him a question, but he could only mumble a reply. He fell back into dreamlessness.

When he woke again, Marcine was waiting. “You look great,” she said.

She told Bruce that the surgery was a success. Now they had to wait and see whether the kidney would be rejected.

Bruce recovered on the 10th floor. Doctors checked on him throughout the night. He struggled to find a comfortable sleeping position. He could only lay comfortably on his back and his body became sore. He pressed the bedside button that released pain medication when he felt discomfort.

The day after the surgery, down on the fifth floor, Jim’s doctors stressed how important it was for him to move around. He walked around his room for a while, but he still felt weak. He got through the day on applesauce, Jell-O, and “pretty terrible” oatmeal.

Bruce craved pizza and a big, juicy burger but drank broth and juice.

Jim was released from the hospital two days after surgery. Doctors had said Jim could drive home to Vermillion, but he and Collette stayed in a Rochester hotel for a



ABBOTT



KING

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On Friday after the surgery, the hospital discharged Bruce to the Gift of Life Transplant House, the 48-room, brick house for recovering transplant patients and their families.

Bruce and Marcine got to know a young couple. The man had his kidney transplant just days after Bruce had his. They compared blood levels and talked about doctor appointments.

Marcine knew that it was important “to be in a place where everyone knows this experience.”

Every day of Bruce’s recovery was different at the house.

night, in case any complications arose.

When they finally left for Vermillion, Jim reclined the passenger seat to ease his discomfort. They stopped the car every hour so he could walk around.

At 7 a.m., he would have his blood drawn at the clinic. At 8:15 a.m., he and Marcine would meet with doctors. One day, Bruce spent most of the day with an IV pumping fluids through his body. Another day, he had to get a kidney biopsy.

Bruce has been doing well and has a tentative release date for June 28.

“Everybody wants to come home,” he said recently. “Home is home is home is home.”

In the meantime, he is learning about nutrition and life after transplant surgery.

Marcine has been by Bruce’s side throughout his recovery, but staying in The Gift of Life House scared her. Seeing so many people who had suffered organ failure frightened her at first. But then she began to see people overcome the odds.

Bruce’s body seems to be accepting the kidney, and he hopes to get back to a normal healthy life when he returns home. His children, Crosby, Carver and Jillian, will soon have a “fully functioning dad,” he said.

“There are happy endings,” Marcine said.

Her husband’s story is another of hope and happy ends.

*Lina Miller is a student at the University of Montana.*



# Business OFF MAIN STREET

## South Dakota is finalist for oil refinery

Hyperion options farmland in Union County as it studies sites for what could be nation's first refinery built in three decades

BY NANCY KELSEY  
Staff Writer

**ELK POINT, S.D.** — After months of speculation about the purchase of farmland in Union County, Dallas-based Hyperion Resources announced that South Dakota is a finalist for a 400,000-barrel-a-day oil refinery that could create 1,800 jobs.

In a news conference here Wednesday, state development secretary Richard Benda and Hyperion project executive Preston Phillips touted the project as a first of its kind: a clean, environmentally friendly refinery. It would produce ethanol and biodiesel fuel.

The company has options to buy 5,000 acres, Phillips said. The process for setting zoning and other regulations will begin soon.

Rumors of what is called "Project Gorilla" started circulating with the offers for large land purchases in southeast South Dakota. Until Wednesday, the project has been largely shrouded in secrecy.

The planned oil refinery would be the nation's first in three decades.

South Dakota is among an unspecified number of finalists in different states as a site for the refinery, which will be announced early next year, Phillips said. South Dakota has much to offer a possible refinery, including proximity to rail, highways and water, he said. The site would be next to both the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers and would require 12 million gallons of water each day. Phillips said that water would likely come



"We want to be a good neighbor," Preston Phillips, project executive of Hyperion Resources, said to residents of Elk Point, "We're committed to that fact."

PRINCELLA PARKER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

from the Missouri River.

Benda estimated that \$8 billion would be spent on the project.

The state has not made a formal incentive offer. "We have not put a proposal on the table," Benda said.

Hyperion expects to create 4,500 construction jobs per year during the building of the refinery, in addition to \$20- to \$30-an-hour jobs after completion.

"There's no doubt that 2,000 jobs for the area is a good thing," said South Dakota House Rep. Margaret Gillespie, who represents Elk Point.

Still, she said, based on the information she heard at the news conference, she could not conclude whether the refinery would be good or bad for Union County.

The majority of the Gorilla Project calls have been to learn more about the project. Now, people are "digesting the information" and will likely call her throughout the week, Gillespie said. She said she is pleased that her constituents know what the project is. She said, though, that she can understand why the secrecy surrounding it was necessary.

Plans have been in the works for a

TransCanada pipeline through South Dakota. As the Sioux Falls Argus Leader has reported, the pipeline is scheduled to be in place by 2009. Phillips said there is no specific relationship between the TransCanada pipeline plans and the proposed refinery. In fact, he said the refinery's output would be great enough to warrant its own pipeline.

The refinery would sit on 2,000 acres of Union County land and Hyperion would also create a buffer zone for nearby residents, Phillips said.

"We want to be a good neighbor," he said. "We're committed to that fact."

More than 100 people gathered to hear the news in the basement meeting room of the Union County Courthouse, 30 miles north of Sioux City, Iowa. Many were residents of Union County who were not allowed to ask any questions as stipulated at the beginning of the press conference.

Jason Quam was told that only members of the news media could ask questions when he piped up during the question-and-answer period. Quam lives inside what was termed the buffer area, or land between the proposed refinery and the surrounding residential area.

He said Hyperion's real estate agents offered him \$325,000 for his nine acres of non-farmland.

"They made me an offer that was fair market value," he said. It would be acceptable if he were making the choice to move, but he's not—Hyperion would either drive down his property value or Quam would have to move, he said.

Quam runs the [www.elkpointgorilla.com](http://www.elkpointgorilla.com) blog that gives updates about the project.

Marie Eidem, a 40-year resident of Union County, on the other hand, has been satisfied with the negotiations on her farmland; she would not disclose the number of acres that she and her husband would sell. Until Wednesday, residents who had been negotiating options with Hyperion's real estate agents did not know the fate of their land options.

Eidem said she is still content with her choice after hearing that the land would be part of a large-scale refinery project.

"We have not been misled in any way," she said.

Nancy Kelsey, *Little River Band of Ottawa Indians*, is studying journalism at the University of Nebraska graduate school.

## Gripping about gas

Drivers complain that prices are 'way too high'

BY ANDI MURPHY  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION S.D.** — The price of fuel here has gone down 22 cents for regular unleaded and four cents for diesel since last month, but drivers are not excited.

According to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report, the local price for regular unleaded is \$3.09 per gallon, nine cents more than the national average and 29 cents less than the highest recorded price in South Dakota.

Diesel is \$2.86 per gallon, three cents less than the national average and 51 cents lower than the highest recorded diesel price in South Dakota.

Local drivers say that the prices are still too high.

"I think they need to go down more," said Beth Zilverberg, 26, a clerk at Freedom Value Center, a small service station in Vermillion.

When the gas prices go up the customers

usually complain, and when they go down they usually buy more gas, said Zilverberg, who travels more now that the prices are lower.

At the Conoco Coffee Cup Fuel Stop, visitors fueled up and voiced their opinions about the changing prices.

The price of gas could cause people to be a little more conservative, said Casey Kruse, a biologist from Yankton.

Lenee Pfeiler, on vacation from Omaha, said the gas prices are "way too high."

An ideal price is \$2.50 a gallon, she said.

Adam Sell, a truck driver for Hamilton Farm in Tennessee, was in South Dakota for business.

"It's too high," he said about the prices. "It's ridiculous. There's no sense in it."

Andi Murphy, *Navajo*, is a student at New Mexico Highlands University.



VICTORIA JACKSON-DICK ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A worker smokes a cigarette at a construction site in Vermillion, S.D.



# A look at Hyperion, a Dallas oil-and-gas company

Governor calls CEO Albert Huddleston 'low profile' and an 'easy-going guy'



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left, AIJI students Lina Miller, Troy Doney and Jacquelyne Taurianen listen to Gov. Mike Rounds during a news conference at the American Indian Journalism Institute.

BY CANDACE BEGODY  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — Republican Gov. Mike Rounds has hunted and golfed with the CEO of the company everyone from Sioux City to Sioux Falls wants to know about.

But Rounds had little to say about Hyperion Resources and its CEO, Albert Huddleston, except that Huddleston is an “easy-going guy” and “low profile.”

Rounds spoke June 14 to the media and students attending the American Indian Journalism Institute at the Al Neuharth Media Center in Vermillion. Most of the governor’s news conference concerned the previous day’s announcement that the town of Elk Point is a finalist for an oil refinery that will generate 400,000 barrels a day and as many as 1,800 jobs. The construction of the refinery is likely to cost at least \$8 billion.

Rounds talked mostly about how Hyperion’s refinery would be friendlier to the environment than others, but he had little else to say about Hyperion and suggested students turn to the Internet.

So we did.

We found tidbits of information about both Hyperion and Albert Huddleston.

The privately operated Hyperion, founded in 1990, is an oil-and-gas company in Dallas. Albert Huddleston is the son-in-law of Bunker Hunt, son of Hunt Oil Company founder, H.L. Hunt.

According to Manta, a Web site that gleans information about businesses from publishers such as Dun & Bradstreet and Newstex, Hyperion is located at 5910 N. Central Expressway in Dallas. Manta estimates that Hyperion has 60 employees and \$12.3 million in annual sales. However, phone calls to the company yielded no one willing to confirm or deny the sales figure.

According to reports on the Web site, Huddleston, who is known for his major contributions to the Republican Party, donated \$93,500 to the party in 2006. He made political contributions of \$81,000 in 2004 and \$55,000



JASA SANTOS ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

in 2002, most of which went to the Republican Party.

In April, as a way to “do something good to improve relations between the two countries,” the United States and Iraq, Huddleston spent more than \$100,000 to help bring a 14-and-under Iraqi soccer team into the country, according to a story originally published in The Dallas Morning News. The team competed in the Dallas Cup, an internationally recognized soccer tournament.

For the past two years, Hyperion has helped train Iraqi oil workers.

Huddleston supported the Swift Boat Vets and POWs for Truth, an organization that campaigned in 2004 against presidential candidate John Kerry, a Democrat. Huddleston made a \$100,000 contribution to the organization.

Huddleston and his daughter Caroline Huddleston, assistant for arrangements for the Office of Laura Bush, attended a state dinner, which honored the nation’s governors in February.

He is a state corporate member of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, a United States government organization created by former president George H.W. Bush in 1991, to address environmental issues along coastlines.

Elk Point, S.D., is one of several potential sites in the Midwest for the oil refinery which will use advanced technology to produce low-sulfur gas and diesel fuel.

The other locations have not been identified, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Rounds said Huddleston wants his refinery to be a model for other corporations in the nation and world.

Huddleston is trying to show that the “future of energy production is in America and that it will be environmentally safe,” Rounds said.

Hyperion officials will likely make a formal announcement within three to six months, Rounds said, as to whether Elk Point is the company’s preferred site.

*Candace Begody, Navajo, is a student at the University of Arizona.*



# Refinery proposal reaction mixed

Some say the Hyperion project would invigorate the Elk Point area; others worry about the increased population

By CHARLES PULLIAM  
Staff Writer

**ELK POINT, S.D.** — A proposal to bring nearly 5,000 new jobs and build a refinery capable of producing 400,000 barrels of crude oil a day is causing a stir among Elk Point residents.

Texas-based Hyperion Resources announced Wednesday it is considering building the first oil refinery in the United States in 31 years here. The proposed refinery would be located about eight miles north of Elk Point and would employ 1,800 full-time workers.

The idea brought mixed feelings from southeast South Dakota residents.

Of 16 people interviewed Wednesday, nine said the refinery would be a good addition to the state; five wanted more details before deciding. Only two opposed the idea.

Supporters concentrated on the large economic boost and potential flood of new jobs.

"I think it is tremendous," Mike Pottebaum said. "It will bring vibrancy to this town."

The 56-year-old is president of Thermo Bond Buildings in Elk Point. Seated before a plate of eggs at Cody's Homestead, Pottebaum said the project would "create a larger base of workers to draw from."

"Right now, you go downtown at night and you think it's a ghost town," he said.

Erin Olson, 27, said she was "excited" about the idea and is "optimistic" about Hyperion's promise for clean, environmentally friendly production.

"I think it will be good for the town," Olson said. "There will be more jobs and more people coming to Elk Point."

Olson's main concern was the type of people the company would bring. She said a "new atmosphere" might be created.

"I'm afraid there will be a shift of people that could cause tension," she said.

About half of the residents interviewed wanted to know more details about the wave of nearly 5,000 new people and its effect on area communities.

John Ring, a 59-year-old former bank examiner for the state, said the cities of Vermillion and Yankton, among others, also would be affected.

Standing outside Casey's General Store, he said, "People need a place to stay and you have to have amenities ready."

"This isn't going to affect just Elk Point," Ring said. "Other towns need to start planning for houses and schools."



Eileen Donnelly, 84, a local farmer and lifelong resident, expressed concern that the town wasn't large enough to handle the extra workers.

"The schools are not big enough," she said. "The jails aren't big enough."

Several residents expressed skepticism and wanted to know more details.

Wildlife Conservation Officer Tom Petry, 51, said he doesn't know all the facts and is undecided on whether he'll support the project.

"Before anyone can make a decision about anything, they need to know all the facts so they can make an informed decision," Petry said.

He has lived in nearby Canton all his life. He was disappointed in the secrecy behind the project and found it interesting how "hush-hush" the project was.

"The speculation drove people crazy," he said.

An Elk Point resident for 36 years, Carol Runyon said the secrecy behind the project before the announcement made her uneasy.

"It is a good idea, but the community should have been more informed," she said.

Runyon said local businesses would benefit, but the town is drawing too much attention. She feared her small town could become awash in a sea of newcomers.

"It will turn our town into something we don't want," she said.

Dakota Dunes resident Lowell Krediet said the project would help keep the younger population from pursuing jobs elsewhere and would be great way for the state to expand.

"I'd like to see South Dakota grow," he said.

Paying for his coffee outside the BP gas station, a man, who elected not to give his name, criticized television networks.

"They always put the two dumbest people on CNN, and I'm not one of them."

*Charles Pulliam, Aleut, is a student at the University of Alaska in Anchorage.*



Area residents, such as Tom Petry, above, and John Ring, right, expressed anticipation and some concerns about the possibility of an oil refinery near Elk Point.

ELLEN M. FEUERHELM ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Polaris Industries to offer more jobs

City Council approves Vermillion distribution center construction

By CANDACE BEGODY  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION S.D.** — Polaris Industries Inc. will expand its distribution center here, and town officials say it is a step toward the town's economic growth.

"It's a positive economic impact," said Lisa Ketcham, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce and Development Company. "Any expansion of a business could lead to additional economic growth for the city."

Polaris officials announced earlier this month that they would spend \$6.5 million to add 128,000 square feet to their 256,000-square-foot center, to increase their inven-

tory and upgrade equipment.

The center, at 1997 Polaris Parkway, supplies parts for snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles and utility vehicles, and garments and accessories.

Paul Eickhoff, operations manager for the Vermillion site, said construction begins early July and is expected to be complete by December.

"We wanted to consolidate for better customer service," Eickhoff said, "We wanted to invest in this college town. Vermillion has good interstate access, and we can serve both the east and west coast."

The company will close its Canadian center - Polaris' second largest distribution center in the world - next June. Eickhoff

said about 18 full-time jobs will be lost there.

About five full-time administrative positions are likely to open, said Eickhoff, and as many as 10-15 part-time jobs.

According to a South Dakota Department of Labor study in April, 170 people were unemployed in Vermillion.

Polaris ranks sixth among the major employers in Vermillion, with about 150 workers, according to the 2007 Community Guide, a chamber of commerce publication.

"When they announced it," City Manager John Prescott said about Polaris officials, "it was a step forward. When they start construction, that's another big step toward

something good for the community."

City Council President John Powell said he's glad to see more job opportunities for the people and is pleased that Polaris will expand here.

"It's nice to get more businesses in that it will bring people to live here," Powell said.

The distribution center in Vermillion is the only one in the nation. There are 48 Polaris manufacturing and distribution centers worldwide.

*Candace Begody, Navajo, is a student at the University of Arizona.*



# Vermillion SOUTH DAKOTA

## USD student dies of meningitis

Janell Burbach is remembered as a talented musician with a 'bubbly' personality

BY TESINA JACKSON  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — A University of South Dakota student declared brain dead last week will have some of her organs donated, a university administrator said Friday.

The student, 20-year-old Janell Burbach, was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis earlier this week. She was hospitalized in Mercy Medical Center in Iowa where she was declared legally dead Wednesday.

"She was still on life support Wednesday," said Terisa Remelius, USD's dean of students. "She was being kept alive and prepped (Friday) for surgery. Her parents are having her organs donated. They are going to at least seven people."

Burbach, a junior and a music major, was involved in many programs at USD including brass choir, jazz band, concert band, marching band, concert choir and the St. Thomas More Newman Center. At the Newman Center, Burbach organized the U. Blanketeers, a group that makes baby blankets and donates them. In the music program, she played trumpet.

Burbach's twin sister, Ronda, played piccolo and flute in the concert band alongside her sister, according to fellow trumpet player Jessica Mathison.

Burbach often babysat for her twin sister and was proud of her sister's baby, Mathison said.

"I'm sure everyone will miss her smiling face and her positive attitude," Mathison said. "She was a tiny little girl, probably just over five feet. She always had the cutest

little dresses on."

Burbach appeared on the Dean's List in 2005 and 2006, according to the university Web site. Burbach's professor, Rolf Olson, remembered her as someone who liked to be involved in lots of things.

"Janell was a bubbly, wonderful student who always had a positive attitude," Olson said.

Rolf visited Mercy Medical Center on Thursday. "She would have positively influenced a lot of younger people with her music," he said. "She'll be missed a lot. We will definitely have good memories of Janell."

Services will take place at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington, Neb., where Burbach graduated from Cedar Catholic High School in 2005. Visitation is Monday from 2 to 8 p.m., and Mass of Christian burial will be Tuesday at 10 a.m.

A campus memorial service for Burbach is scheduled for noon Friday at the Newman Center, Remelius said.

Meningitis is a viral or bacterial infection of the fluid in a person's spinal cord and the fluid that surrounds the brain. Symptoms can include headache, high fever and stiff neck. The form of meningitis, caused by bacteria, is the most dangerous and can lead to brain damage, hearing loss, learning disability or death.

A USD volleyball player died of meningitis in August 2001, while attending a tournament in North Dakota with her college teammates. McKenzie Hartwig became ill and died the same day. The McKenzie Meningitis Foundation, according to its Web site, strives to educate people about



COURTESY PHOTO

**Janell Burbach, a junior music major, died of meningitis last week. She was engaged to boyfriend Mark Smith on June 2. Smith was in Iraq with the South Dakota National Guard when he learned his fiancée was ill.**

meningitis and provide funds for those who cannot afford to participate in state vaccination programs.

USD officials have urged anyone who might have come in contact with Burbach to be tested for the disease.

Burbach was engaged three weeks ago, Remelius said, and her fiancé was serving in Iraq.

Burbach entered the hospital on Sunday, according to Larry Schou, chairman of the music department. Burbach's MySpace page shows she last logged in Saturday.

A friend of Burbach posted this message on her MySpace site:

"I have had the opportunity in my life

to meet many people. I have met an exceptional person and I have known her for what seems like my whole life, but in actual time... not long enough. She is an inspiration for all young women, and she gives herself daily. ... Beliefs and Faith are the only thing that will help any of this make any sense at all! You are loved Janell!"

Another MySpace friend wrote:

"Goodbye Janell, we will all love and miss you always."

*Tesina Jackson, a Cherokee, is a student at Ball State University.*

## Taking a swat at mosquitoes

Long campaign against pests is beginning to pay off, city officials say

BY JORDAN DRESSER  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — Holding the fate of mosquitoes in Vermillion gives David Nelson a sense of pride.

"I'm really proud that we can do these things to kill them," said Nelson, director of parks and recreation. "Our program works."

Nelson's program includes what he calls "larviciding" and "fogging" Vermillion. When Nelson kills mosquito larvae and eggs, he places pesticide pellets in ditches, wetlands and ponds. When his department fogs, workers spray the air with a chemical that kills the hatched mosquitoes.

These efforts, combined with the dry and windy weather, have shrunk the number of mosquitoes captured over the last two years in the four traps throughout the city, Nelson said.

Since tracking began in late May, the average number of mosquitoes captured in each trap is 16 per day. The daily average over the same time in 2005 was 131.

The parks and recreation department has not fogged Vermillion since that year, Nelson said, because of the low number of mosquitoes found in the traps. For Nelson

to fog the city, the daily mosquito count needs to average between 350 and 500.

"You can tell when it's time to fog because you can't even go outside," Nelson said.

Areas along U.S. Highway 50 and 317th Street spawn the most mosquitoes because of the ditches running along them, Nelson said.

A resident of a nearby neighborhood, Jacy Nelsen, said she has noticed fewer mosquitoes since moving in two years ago.

"They are a nuisance no matter what," Nelsen said. "I'm just used to them."

Nelsen's neighbor of a few blocks away, Dottie Olsen, said she hasn't seen any relief.

The mosquitoes can get so bad in the evening, Olsen said, that she avoids going outside.

"The sad part is that is the time I enjoy being out," Olsen said.

While Olsen has a hard time believing the reports of reduced mosquitoes in the area, she said, she hopes that they might be true.

"I want to believe them, but it's too early to tell," Olsen said. "I hope they're right."

Killing all mosquitoes is impossible, David Nelson said.

"You can't get rid of all mosquitoes," he said. "People still have to protect them-



**Vermillion residents should be able to enjoy the outdoors more, thanks to a parks and recreations program that kills mosquitos by "fogging" them.**

CHRISTIE COOKE ■  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

selves."

Residents can do their part by draining anything that can collect rainwater, Nelson said.

If the time does come when fogging the city is required, Nelson said, he wants to reassure residents that parks and recreation fogs with the safest products. Nelson's department uses Scourge 4-12, he said.

Nelson is proud of the progress his pro-

gram has made since its formation in 2005, but knows that fighting mosquitoes is a constant battle.

"You can't control Mother Nature, but you do the best you can," Nelson said. "But Mother Nature usually wins."

*Jordan Dresser, Northern Arapahoe, is a student at University of Wyoming.*



# Buy here, dry here

## At University Cleaners, owner takes care of fluff-and-fold and gets suits sold

BY JACQUELYNE TAURIANEN  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — There is a laundry list of tasks yet to complete, and Clarene Meins is hardly dried out.

Meins owns University Cleaners and Formal Wear, the only dry cleaners here after Laundry World and Hawaiian Sun closed its door last June.

“It’s been quite a long time since the other cleaners was in town,” said Meins, who bought University Cleaners about a year ago. “I’ve never known competition.”

Meins, 61, said she has seen an increase in business since the closing of Laundry World but it isn’t anything she cannot handle.

She keeps herself busy during the school year with items including band uniforms for the University of South Dakota, Vermillion High School and Elk Point, the drama department’s costumes, the 60 to 100 pieces a day from the dental hygiene department at USD, ROTC uniforms and other customer drop offs.

“I normally work nine-hour days,” Meins said. “And I am back almost every night at least two to three hours to finish the work.”

Kim Beene, 40, and Meins are the only full-time workers at University Cleaners.

“We’ve tried to hire others, but none have ever worked out,” Meins said. “What we hire them in for, they are unable to do.”

Beene has worked for the cleaners for about ten years while other workers usually last a few weeks at best, Meins said.

University Cleaners has always been an all-purpose dry cleaning service, tux renter and seller of men’s suits but has started to include alterations and fluff-and-fold laundry, as well as cleaning drapes and large items like comforters.

“Alterations is a big thing,” Meins said. “There is not a day that I don’t get half a dozen pieces.”

Customers said they love the additions to the store.

“She is very reliable and quick, and she can sew,” Susanne Evans of Vermillion said. “That is the best part because I don’t have to.”

Carol Hemmingson, likes that she has the option to do her dry-cleaning locally.

“There are other places I could go, but they are not this close,” Hemmingson said.



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Above: Clarene Meins, center, and Kim Beene press clothes at University Cleaners. Right: Meins owns the only dry cleaner in town. Beene is her only employee.**

“She offers a great service, and I have never been dissatisfied.”

With customer satisfaction in mind, Meins said she is glad she has always been able to ensure the customer will get their items.

“I may have misplaced an item here or there,” she said, “but I have never lost an item completely.”

Meins now provides her dry-cleaning, tux rental and alteration services for Vermillion and the surrounding area at a lower cost than the previous owner.

“I lowered the prices because I thought the costs before were too high,” Meins said. “It doesn’t matter to me that I’m the only one in town.”

People in and out of Vermillion use the

services Meins provides.

“I live about 28 miles away from here and will drop my stuff off when I come out this way,” said Delmer Stene, 85, of Union County. “She is terrific. No. 1 for me.”

Ben Nesselhuf, 31, who represents Vermillion in the state senate, said he has “bought five suits over the years” at University Cleaners, sight unseen.

Had he not, Nesselhuf said, he would have had to drive an hour to Sioux Falls. “I’m a big believer in shopping locally, and now I can back it up.”

*Jacquelyne Taurianen, Sault Ste. Marie, is a student at the University of Michigan.*



ELLEN M. FEUERHELM ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Scenes of a smalltown summer



MELISSA MORGAN ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Residents of Vermillion take advantage of a warm, sunny day to finish some chores outside the house, left, lounge by the pool with friends and enjoy ice cream.**



CHRISTIE COOKE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





LINA MILLER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Bright skies, hot days

A few wisps of clouds pass through Vermillion as southeastern South Dakota endures a customary summertime stretch of hot days with little rain.

# It's Oklahoma! for NAJA

## Association about to pull up stakes at University of South Dakota

BY ANDI MURPHY  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — The only thing left for NAJA to do in South Dakota is leave it.

Interim Executive Director Kim Baca returned from the Native American Journalists Association's June 7-9 conference in Denver to start preparing for July 18, the next important date on NAJA's calendar.

On that day, moving vans arrive at the Al Neuharth Media Center to pack up NAJA's files and furniture and take them to a new home, the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Why doesn't NAJA stay at the University of South Dakota?

OU is a bigger school than USD—the Norman campus has 26,500 students, more than three times the enrollment in Vermillion—and Oklahoma has nearly 400,000 Native Americans, compared with South Dakota's 70,000.

The differences translate to more office space and greater recruitment opportunities for NAJA, said new President Cristina Azocar.

"OU gave us everything we want," said Azocar, the director of the Center for

Integration and Improvement of Journalism at San Francisco State University.

NAJA will move into five offices in Copeland Hall, the former home of the OU journalism college. NAJA has occupied three offices in the Al Neuharth Media Center at USD.

There will be "more visibility for the organization in Oklahoma," said Jeff Harjo, the newly named executive director and former editor of the Kickapoo Traveling Times tribal newspaper.

The move "demonstrates commitment from OU for Native American issues. That will lead to attracting top tier faculty and staff with specialization in American Indian media," said Harjo, reading from a letter.

"It was not an easy decision," said Kim Baca, interim executive director who will oversee the move out of South Dakota.

The NAJA board of directors discussed the possibility of moving for about two years and approved it last fall after a two-and-a-half-day debate, Baca said. NAJA moved to USD from Minneapolis four and a half years ago.

Harjo said NAJA will hire an education director, an office manager and a receptionist at its new OU offices. "As we grow more, we will probably add more staff," Harjo said.



**Kim Baca, interim executive director of NAJA, will oversee the transition to Oklahoma. After two years of discussion, the board of directors approved the move last fall, Baca said. "It was not an easy decision," she said.**

The education director will try to promote Native media to students and teachers

through special curriculum and training, according to Harjo.

At the Denver conference, NAJA released the 2007 "Reading Red Report," which praises some newspaper coverage of Indian issues. Azocar directed the study and wrote the report.

Reading Red is "a report card on how media was covering Native Americans," said Baca.

The report examined stories about Native American issues in large newspapers, such as the Chicago Sun-Times, Houston Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, New York Daily News, The New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post.

"As Native Americans gain political power, newspapers seem to be taking them more seriously," the report concluded. "The 2007 report found many fewer objectionable headlines and stories than the 2002 report."

The report said that in 1,741 stories about Native Americans, 4,684 sources were used; 26.4 percent of those sources were Native American and 73.6 percent were non-Native.

Andi Murphy, Navajo, is a student at New Mexico Highlands University.

## Even night owls can get fit anytime

BY AMANDA TELLER  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — Some dance the night away. Others drink it away. For those who enjoy a late-night workout, there's Anytime Fitness, a 24-hour fitness center.

"The latest I've been there was around 1 a.m., and I was surprised to see two

or three people working out," said Lucas McPherson, 22.

He said the 24-hour availability is what drew him to the center, which opened in January.

It has about 500 members, who can use any of the company's U.S. locations, said manager Katie Henkelson. There are more than 400 locations around the country,

according to Franchise Times.

"Although business has slowed down for the summer, it gets really busy during the school session, a lot of college students," Henkelson said.

There are 35 machines, exercise balls, free weights and a tanning booth. Members are issued magnetic key cards to get in after hours.

Terry Meierkort, of Vermillion, said she comes two to three times a week. She said she chose Anytime Fitness because other fitness centers in Vermillion don't have as much equipment.

"It's nice. It has new equipment and it's clean," Meierkort said while working out.

Another client, Nikki Pittman works at a nearby Subway.

"Why drive to a place to work out?" she said. "It defies the whole purpose of a workout."

All cardio machines are equipped with small television screens that include cable.

"I can work out and watch TV," said Pittman. "You can't beat that."

Amanda Teller, Navajo, is a student at the University of New Mexico, Gallup.





# A home filled with Music



PHOTOS AND STORY  
BY MARTINA ROSE LEE

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — Marie Gray, 80, of Vermillion is in her bedroom at one of two pianos. Her eyes are shut. Her hands move fast over the keys, and she sways to the music. The music fills the house.

Gray is practicing for her granddaughter’s wedding on June 29 in downtown Vermillion. She will play “Impromptu” by Franz Schubert for Georgia Gray-Lobe who is known as “Princess” to her grandmother.

Gray has loved music all her life. Piano has always been an outlet for her emotions, whether happy or sad. She began playing the piano when she was 6 years old. Her father, a piano tuner, paid for her lessons. At college,

she double majored in music and art, graduating with her Bachelor of Science degree. She went on to earn her master’s degree in music education and a Certificate of Specialization for completing an additional 30 credit hours.

Gray is looking for new piano students and goes to the farmers’ market on Wednesday and church on Sunday offering free lessons. She likes to teach students to play by ear before they read notes.

So far she has no takers, but Gray still advises students interested in music to play “any kind of music. Enjoy it. Play what you like.”

*Martina Lee, Navajo, is a student at Arizona State University.*



Marie Gray sets up music before beginning piano practice. Her hands move rapidly over the keys as she practices “Impromptu” by Schubert in her home. Gray will be playing a piece at her granddaughter’s wedding at the end of June.





PRINCELLA PARKER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BREANNA ROY ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clockwise from above: Children ride the Dragon Roller Coaster for Czech Days amusement. 2007 Czech Days Queen candidates smile at the crowd. 2006 Czech Days Queen Katy Adam, 18, prepares to hand down her crown to the 2007 queen. Kaitlin Sherman, 2, takes a break from the parade with her grandpa outside Bon Homme Elementary School.



BREANNA ROY ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Top Left: Shriners perform in the parade route as tractors roll in.

Top Middle: Great-grandchildren of Laddie and Agnes Kostal wait to have their family photo taken.

Top Right: Czech Days Queen candidates Kenzie Dvoracek and Ashley Cuka play with Czech Days Prince Alex Dangler's crown before the parade.



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Frybread where kolaches are king

By CHARLES PULLIAM  
Staff Writer

**TABOR, S.D.** — Indian tacos, frybread and Czech Days may not seem to fit, but it makes sense to Nicomas Red Horse, a Hawaiian-raised Lakota.

The Native American foods were the attraction at a concession stand set up by Red Horse and added new flair to Czech Days, the annual festival in the southeastern part of the state. With her mother-in-law, Joy, she planned a booth for nearly two months but didn't anticipate having such a popular attraction in Indian tacos.

"We started last night," Red Horse said. "I didn't know what to expect, but I only have about eight left."

An Indian taco is a piece of dough, deep-fried to a fluff in oil and then loaded with toppings, which usually consist of traditional Mexican taco ingredients but vary according to individual tastes. Red Horse's included a bean-and-rice dip.

Her concession stand was outside her house at the beginning of the Giant Parade route on West Yankton Street. A sign promoting "Indian Tacos, Frybread and Cold Drinks" filtered many parade goers toward Red Horse's tent-covered stand.

Red Horse said about 150 Indian tacos were sold by the midway mark of the festival. "We had one order for 30, but it was from my husband's work," she said. "He ended up helping out and delivered them for me."

Tabor is a community of about 400 people and a sizable portion of the population is of Czech descent. According to officials, more than 10,000 visitors stopped by the three-day festival.

Red Horse moved to Tabor a year ago from Arizona. She met her husband, Art Cleveland Red Horse, in South Dakota about 10 years ago during a powwow.

"We didn't necessarily pick Tabor," she said.

After her sister married a Czech from Tabor, they settled down and suggested to Red Horse that she should move to Tabor.

"We wanted some good land and just started making some payments," Red Horse said. "[My sister] was here, and the land was here."

The Czech Days Celebration was the Red Horse family's first.

"I didn't know what to expect, but it was a lot of fun," Red Horse said. "I think we are probably the only Indians in Tabor."

Her husband, a Navajo, made the transition into the community more easily. An artist specializing in oil painting, he graduated from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M. At Czech Days, several people approached him about his paintings.

Art Red Horse said the celebration was similar to traditional Native American dances.

"I went to the crowning of the queen," he said. "I think it's kind of like the Native Americans at a powwow."

"They walk around with pride showing they haven't lost their traditions," he said. "It's good to see them try to bring some of it back."

As for the Indian taco stand, Red Horse said she is unsure of its future but glad that many people enjoyed the new flavors of Czech Days.

"Most people haven't even heard of Indian tacos," she said, "but they liked them."

Charles Pulliam, Aleut, is a student at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

## Celebrating culture at Czech Days

### Polkas, one long parade and good health lure one big family to Tabor

By JACQUELYNE TAURIANEN  
Staff Writer

**TABOR, S.D.** — Czech Days is about one thing: celebration.

Czech culture is celebrated by the food, music, costumes and customs of the Czech people who live in the area and others who travel from around the United States.

Approximately 10,000 people pay a visit to Tabor, population 417, to dress up, listen to polka music and eat kolaches—doughnut-like pastries—during the 59th annual Czech Days celebrations to keep their culture alive.

The festival of culture, heritage and life is especially true for one Tabor family.

"I've been coming to Czech Days since I was 3," said Veronica Gleason, 53. "I grew up here, and this is a deep tradition for my family."

Gleason's family arrived in Tabor in 1914 when her grandfather Anton Cesek came from Czechoslovakia at age 15.

Cesek lived and raised his family in Tabor, working as the caretaker of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church and cemetery, where he is buried.

"I still remember coming to the church to help him out," Gleason said. "He always let us ring the church bell. He loved this place."

Gleason lives in Denver with her husband, Tom. She said her family and other relatives from throughout the United States haven't had the chance to come back to Tabor as often as they would like.

"We try to come back for Czech Days, but

sometimes our lives just don't allow for it," Gleason said.

This year was different.

The family found out about a year ago that Gleason's brother-in-law, Mike Carney, was diagnosed with multi-myeloma, a form of cancer that attacks the plasma of white blood cells, Gleason said.

"Our family made a promise that if Mike was still around in a year we would all come back here to celebrate together," Gleason said. One year later, 25 members gathered at Czech Days to honor Carney's successful battle with cancer and their optimistic future together.

Sporting "The O'Kolace Clan" T-shirts, the family celebrates the history that is all around them, including their variation of spelling the traditional Czech dessert.

"Our grandparents and parents, who lived here their whole life, are buried right here in this cemetery," Gleason said. "We see it as a shrine to our family."

Carney organized the family gathering so the other members could relax and enjoy every second they got to spend with one another, Gleason said.

"Everyone is proud of Mike's accomplishment and our heritage," Gleason said. "We're happy we're given this time together to celebrate."

Jacquelyne Taurianen, Sault Ste. Marie, is a student at the University of Michigan.



# USD CAMPUS LIFE

## Campus 'living room' still a year away

### New student center expected in fall 2008

By TESINA JACKSON  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — After a year's delay, construction is to begin soon on the University of South Dakota's \$20 million student center.

"USD just really wanted to build a

new student center that could fit everyone comfortably and where students could just come and hang out," said Genevieve Evans Taylor, director of the temporary center. "The student center is basically the living room for campus."

Catherine Wagner, USD's manager of planning and construction, said the center is to be completed by fall 2008.

USD President James W. Abbott decided last fall to demolish the 51-year-old student center although estimates showed that rebuilding would cost 10 percent more than renovation.

The land has stood vacant since, but construction is on schedule, said Lisa Nielsen, office manager of the temporary center.

"The temporary student center is working out well," she said. "It's just really small. We're trying to accommodate everything."

The new center is to include indoor and outdoor lounges, a larger Barnes & Noble, first-floor dining lounges and space for students to socialize and feel at home.

Second-floor plans include a Student Activities Center, conference rooms, a multicultural center, student union office and the Student Government Association.

A 125-foot hallway is to connect the computer lab, part of the library, with the new center.

An outdoor terrace and a public ballroom with capacity for 500 people completes the second floor, Wagner said. Outdoor features

include outdoor patios and landscaping.

"I'm really happy about the terrace," Evans-Taylor said. "It will be nice to be able to go outside after a meeting and relax and just hang out."

Footing the project are students fees, an anonymous \$5 million donation and \$450,000 from Barnes & Noble.

Students who live on campus and have a meal plan will pay an additional \$75 in student fees, an increase approved by student government. That would bring the cost of housing, food service, in-state tuition and books to \$11,286.60 annually.

*Tesina Jackson, Cherokee, is a student at Ball State University.*

## From dust to Division I

### Renovations ready the dome and the University of South Dakota for the big leagues

By ANDI MURPHY  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — A new track is going to pave the way for the Coyotes into Division I.

But before that can happen, a few adjustments have to be made.

Construction of the sewer lines inside the Dakota Dome began June 4, the same day the University of South Dakota summer basketball camp started.

The camp attracted about 100 girls in grades five through 12, USD women's basketball player Shannon Daly said. They will have to play around the construction.

Daly said the renovation didn't bother the players.

"We have a pretty good camp," she said.

Chelsea Reed, 16, who is attending the camp, has noticed the noise as well as the dust and exhaust.

"There is no problem in the air that affects my breathing, but it is dusty in here," she said.

The renovations are causing minor problems for some, one USD student said. Gina Spanton said she usually visits the dome daily to swim. With the construction, "I can't swim," she said.

Lucky Huber, USD women's track and field head coach, said the renovations, which include a resurfaced track, are preparation for the upgrade to Division I.

Huber hopes that the changes will help with USD's Division I exploratory year in 2007-08. If the Coyotes can keep up in Division I during the exploratory year, then they will stay. Opponents, winning records and finances will help determine their future in the division, Huber said.

The track "will help us with our steps toward Division I," Huber said, adding that the track and field teams are very good and that he hoped they would lead the way into Division I.

Joel Nielsen, USD athletic director, described the exploratory year as a big step for USD athletics, but he said he wanted to enter the new classification prepared.

"We will make sure all the necessary adjustments are completed," he said. Nielsen said the upgrade to Division I coincides with the various renovations at the dome.

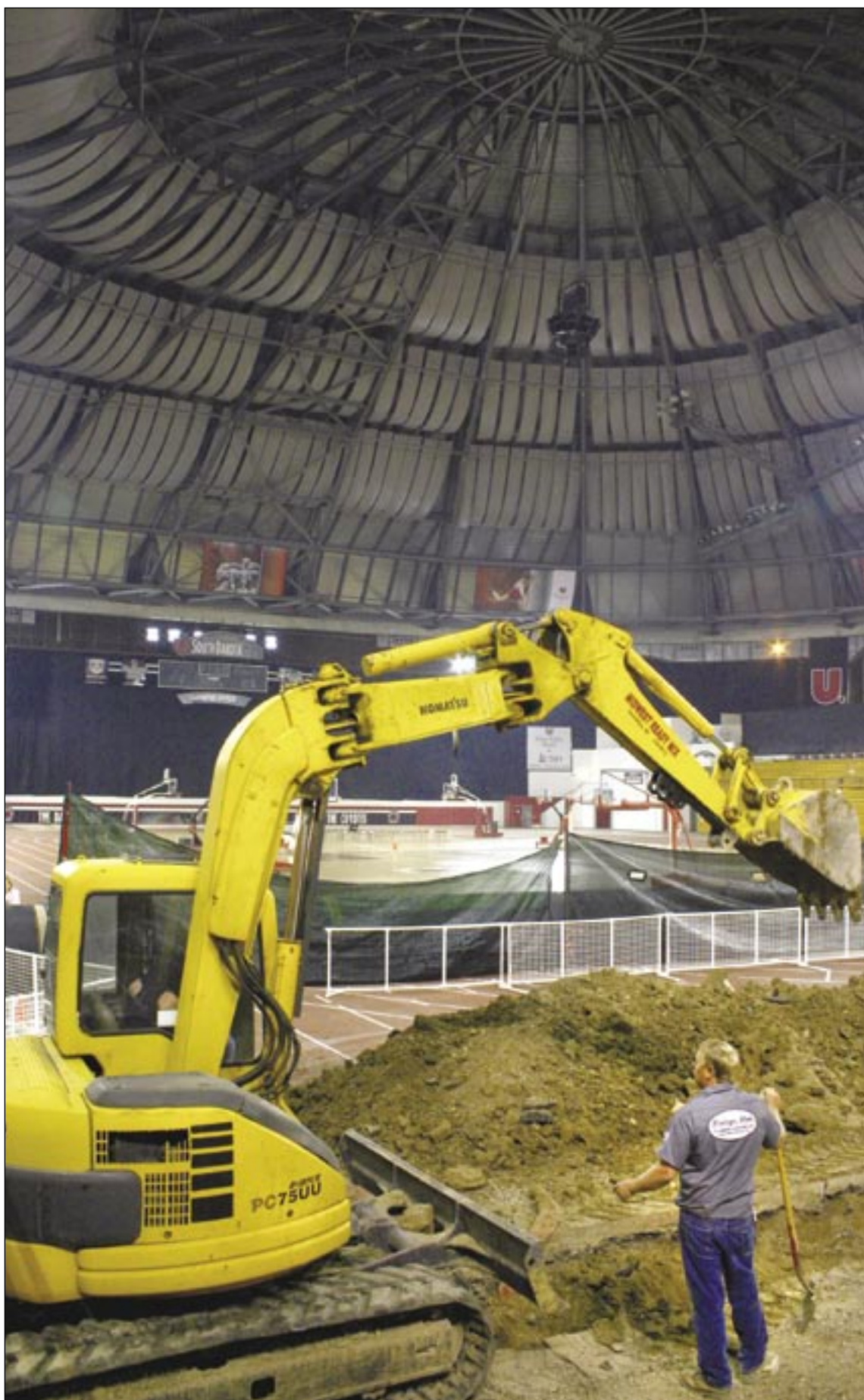
Other projects include men's locker rooms, as well as installing a water line at the south end of the dome.

All of the work is "simply preventative maintenance," Nielsen said. "The Dakota Dome is over 30 years old."

The construction should be finished by Aug. 1.

"We're really excited about it," he said.

*Andi Murphy, Navajo, is a student at New Mexico Highlands University. Charles Pulliam and Jacquelyne Taurianen contributed to this article.*



PRINCELLA PARKER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jody Sage, foreman of Redlinger Bros. Plumbing and Heating Co., watches as the Dakota Dome's floor is exposed during renovations. The construction, which should be finished by Aug. 1, will help the Coyotes move into Division 1.



# Alternatives sought for closed school in Michigan

## Identity, new teaching styles key to safety net for Native American students

By NANCY KELSEY  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** – Some American Indian community members hope to create a charter school to replace the recently-closed Bimaadiziwin School in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Bimaadiziwin was established more than 25 years ago to help preserve the culture of the Anishinaabe tribes of Michigan. The alternative school had 98 students, a quarter of them American Indian. The last student walked through the school's doors on June 7.

Levi Rickert, an American Indian community activist, established LIKE, or Let Indian Kids Exist, which fought to keep Bimaadiziwin open.

"I think [the school] is extremely important because it's kind of a safety net for high-risk American Indian youth," Rickert said. Like Bimaadiziwin, it would allow "for the Indian kids to really feel part of their heritage and culture."

The number of American Indian students at Bimaadiziwin had declined, said Bernard Taylor, Grand Rapids schools superintendent, and the district faced a tight budget.

But Rickert's group believes there is still a need for the services Bimaadiziwin provided. LIKE wants nonprofit status to begin an American Indian charter school. The school would open for the 2008-2009 school year.

There are seven charter schools in Grand Rapids but none are high schools. Nationally there are almost 4,000 charter schools, with more than 1.15 million students, according to a March count by the Center for Education Reform. In Michigan there are 241 charter schools with more than 96,000 students. One percent of them are American Indian.

LIKE's charter school would be independent of the school district.

To create a charter school, LIKE must draft a charter, develop a curriculum and hire a staff, according to the U.S. Charter Schools Web site.

The teaching style, allowing students to learn at their own pace while learning culture and language, made Bimaadiziwin one-of-a-kind, Rickert said. He said the new charter school should have similar goals to combat the high dropout rates among American Indian students.

"When you get your high school diploma, it really spells success rather than failure," Rickert said. "On a national basis, you see our students do not do well in a mainstream school system."

When students have their diploma and a sense of culture, he said, the results are good.

Bill Brooks, an attorney in Grand Rapids, has a son now in his 20s who was a student at Bimaadiziwin.

"His story is pretty typical," he said. "He was just basically being tracked down the special ed track. He wasn't making progress."

His son went to Bimaadiziwin, which means living the good life in the Anishinaabe language, and made a turnaround. He began testing at grade level.

"They said he was marginally retarded. Bimaadiziwin probably saved

him," Brooks said.

Brooks' son is now a small business owner.

Such cases are the success stories that made the school worthwhile, Rickert said. They are also, he said, testament to why a charter school is needed.

"Anytime you involve students with their culture, it gives them a pride in who they are," he said.

That, Rickert said, equates with knowing "it's OK to be an Indian."

Research also shows that American Indian students require more than a mainstream education, said Jon Reyhner, a professor from Northern Arizona University who specializes in Indian education.

Research, he said, shows that hands-on learning works best with American Indian students, because, "It allows them to understand much better and makes school more interesting."

Reyhner said another aspect is the strengthening of Indian identity.

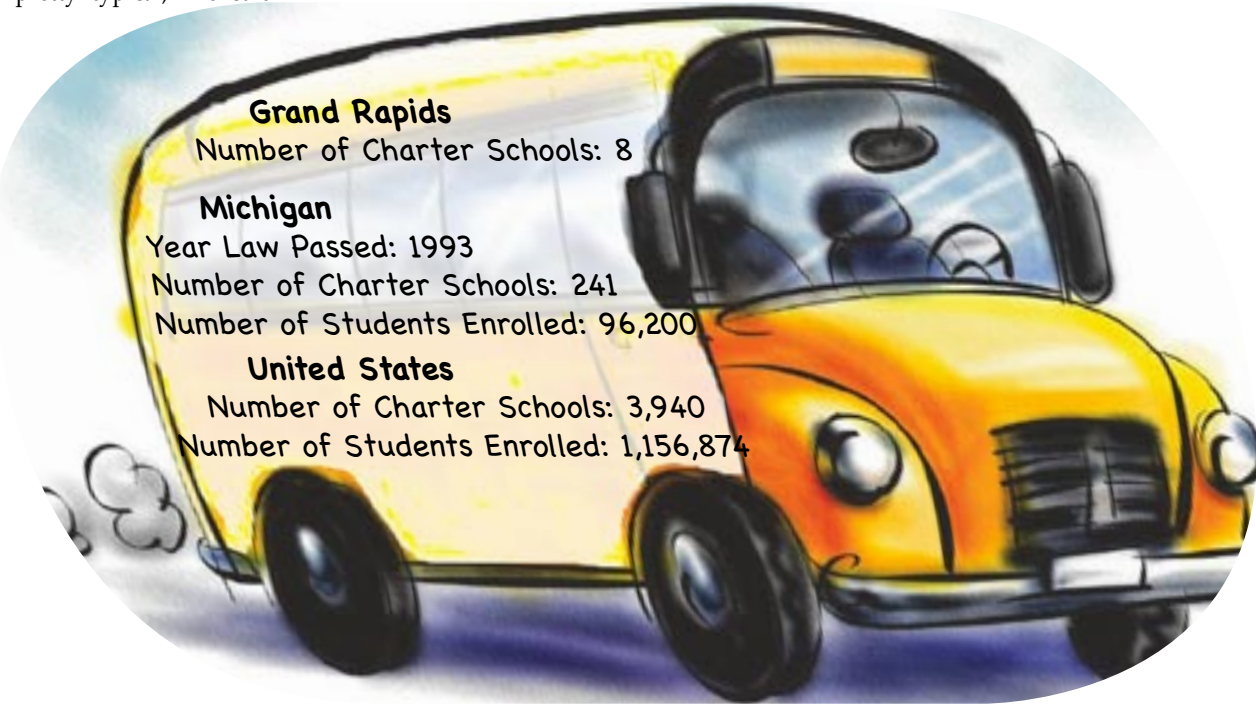
Susan Applegate Krouse, a Cherokee from Oklahoma who leads the American Indian Studies Department at Michigan State University, agrees.

She said an education that strengthens Indian identity could counter the racism students find in Michigan schools.

"There's very little that gets taught about Native people," she said. That leads to racism toward American Indians, she said.

Research from across the nation, said Applegate Krouse, shows that incorporating language and culture, as Rickert plans at the proposed charter school, would increase the graduation rate of American Indian students.

*Nancy Kelsey, Little River Band of Ottawa, is a student at the University of Nebraska.*



### No school! Summer is cool.

CANDACE BEGODY ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Residents of Vermillion enjoy time at the bowling alley, on bikes and with garden hoses.



BREANNA ROY ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



CANDACE BEGODY ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# Living ARTS AND LEISURE

## Baseball on a Gray Day

BY LINA MILLER, STAFF WRITER  
(With apologies to Ken Fuson)

This is how Des Moines, Iowa, baseball fans enjoy a day at the ball park: Families struggle in single file to find their seats, balancing trays of hot dogs, sodas and popcorn in one hand and holding their tickets in the other; fans peer down from the skyboxes, thankful for an air-conditioned escape from the muggy, gray day; a gray-haired man in a blue baseball cap keeps his attention focused on the American flag that waves in the distance while his family chatters around him; the national anthem glides around the silent crowd, through the aroma of hot dogs and suntan lotion; players warm up in the outfield, tossing baseballs back and forth, and attempt to shake off the memory of two consecutive disasters (18-8, 19-4); “Ice cold, fresh lemonade!”; the crowd howls when a fly ball is caught in the outfield, but the home run that follows gives way to memories of the past two games; foul balls soar over the crowd into the parking lot and eager fans dive for the balls that shoot into the stands; random claps and shouts cut through the chatter, and “those evil red-winged black birds” fly low over the players’ heads; “Souvenirs here! Get your souvenirs!”; the announcer’s commands of, “Let’s go nuts!” leave the crowd unresponsive, but people roar when the home team makes a double play; sunburned men sit alone in muscle T-shirts, cracking peanuts shells, when one exclaims, “You’ve got to be kidding me!”, and children run around the empty outfield seats as their parents intently watch the game; young boys dressed in navy and orange baseball uniforms keep an eye on Cubbie the cartoon-like bear mascot, and groups of women in matching red Cubs shirts carry around too-tall beers; in the bottom of the third inning a mother promises an autographed baseball in return for good behavior, and a father puts his back to the field to snap a picture of his smiling family in the front row; in the concession area, red-shirted employees look bored behind mounds of fresh popcorn, and fans watch the game on television screens above the menus as they wait in line; people clutch funnel cakes covered in powdered sugar, a rainbow of drink bottles, and cups overflowing with blue slush; mothers cradle their red-faced children and big brothers hold little sisters’ hands as they make their way through the crowd; back on the field, a T-shirt cannon shaped like a baseball bat shoots free gifts to jumpy fans, and grown-ups hand their prizes to frowning children; bottom of the fifth, the home team is down by three runs and a woman holding a tall can of beer dances in the aisle; a father holds his rosy-cheeked baby girl and points to the batter as he swings; bottom of the sixth, “Last call beer! Last call bottled water! Last call here!”; fans wait out the last inning of a losing game underneath sun visors, baseball caps and sunglasses, and organ music blasts through the speakers as kids dance along; bottom of the ninth and the home team is down by six runs; the game ends and the masses deal with another loss; fans file out and leave behind crumpled napkins, empty bottles, popsicle sticks and straws sticking out of drained red soda cups; once-occupied green folding chairs empty as the crowd leaves the stadium and a few wander into the gift shop where walls of hats, racks of shirts, and buckets of souvenir baseball bats await; “Was that fun?” a blond mother asks her equally blond son; this is America’s pastime and as the stadium becomes hollow, and ground workers dust off home plate, what remains is the possibility of the next game; another chance for the hometown crowd.



# Quiet riot

## Entertainment writer gets his thrills on paper



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robert Morast of the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, S.D., says he doesn't mind getting hate mail. "You gotta tell the truth and not care what people have to say," he says.

BY ANDI MURPHY  
Staff Writer

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D.** — Robert Morast's desk in the Argus Leader newsroom is cluttered with stacks of CDs and music magazines. Posters of Nirvana, Turbonegro, AFI, Star Wars, the Simpsons and Alkaline Trio hang on the cubicle wall. Plastic snake toys peek from behind his computer and his iPod lies lifeless.

He wears a dark blue shirt that accents his brown hair and makes his eyes seem an icy blue.

Morast comes off as a shy person. He has a consistent, quiet voice.

His voice in the Argus Leader, however, assumes a different tone as he writes about pop culture in South Dakota: comic books, video games, films and, his specialty, music.

His background and childhood could explain his demeanor. Morast grew up in Halliday, N.D., population 250. He lived on a ranch and attended the 42-student Halliday High School. He occupied his time with comic books ("Spiderman," "Silver Surfer" and "Y: The Last Man") and movies. He became a "Star Wars" fanatic.

Morast doesn't have a great picture of himself and is critical of everything he does, said co-worker Eric Hahn, an Argus Leader copy editor. Morast's upbringing on a ranch made him the person he is, Hahn said.

"Doing an honest, straight job of everything—I think that kind of defines him," Hahn said.

News assistant Judy Lampert lowers her voice to say Morast is quiet, "not a real noisy person at all."

"I think he's kind of a sweet guy, I don't know, he comes off differently in his writing," Lampert said, as if revealing a secret.

At Bismarck (N.D.) State College, Morast wanted to major in biology but soon found out it was not his forte. Neither was advanced math. "I got bad at it," he said with a polite smile.

Morast noticed that the Mystician, the college paper, only had reviews about country music and artists. But he wanted to read about rock music, so the paper asked him to write a review. He did, and he's been doing it ever since.

His excitement over his first publication was short-lived. He didn't think the article was good, but he admired the headline.

"I don't like to dwell in the moment," he said. "I just move on."

Morast earned an associate of arts degree at Bismarck State and a bachelor's at Minnesota State University in Moorhead, double-majoring in English and mass communications. He said that double majoring seems like a big thing, but it really isn't.

He laughed, "I'm probably full of [it], huh?"

Guitar World, a rock magazine from New York, accepted Morast as an intern and made him do "grunt work" like deliveries and errands, he said. But he had the chance to watch the editor and see how things worked. He didn't get paid and he borrowed money from his father. He said indignantly that he had to work for the rest of the summer to pay his dad back.

Morast had a second internship at The Forum in Fargo, N.D. He wrote mainly entertainment reviews.

"This kind of made me realize that I wanted to be a journalist," he said.

Motivation for Morast has been the thrash metal/punk band, godhead-Silo, from North Dakota. He explained that the band members came from a small town in North Dakota like he did. Their "short noisy songs," he said were "so damn loud" and reminded him that he could do great things, even if he did come from a small town.

Morast started working for the Argus Leader in 2000 as entertainment editor. He gets to interview and meet music artists. He says meeting the artists is not all that great, despite what most people think.

"They say the same," he said about the not-so-pleasant interviews and that he likes to listen to the music, instead. He visited lead vocalist Sully Erna of Godsmack and said that he "seemed so cocksure." Morast said he was not impressed.

That attitude is expressed in his writing, and some readers don't like it.

"When you criticize music they kind of take it personally," he said.

Some of the comments he receives are offensive, even explicit. But he said he likes all the comments and hate mail.

"You gotta tell the truth and not care what people have to say," he said. The hate mail is "kind of the nature of the job."

He smiles and shrugs his shoulders.

*Andi Murphy, Navajo, is a student at New Mexico Highlands University.*

# A Sinatra tribute at lunchtime

## Afternoons at the senior center offer camaraderie, companionship and flights of fancy

BY NEDA SPOTTED WOLF  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — It was lunchtime at the Senior Citizens Center but hardly anyone was eating or talking. For the most part, they sat silent looking in the same direction.

But they were all smiling because of what they were hearing: Sinatra at mealtime.

"It was wonderful. I really enjoyed it," said 92-year-old Robin Eisenmanger after a group from the University of South Dakota sang for the seniors June 19.

The four singers previewed "My Way," a Frank Sinatra musical tribute being staged later that weekend at the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre on campus.

Eisenmanger, who has been going to the center for two decades, was among 70 seniors at the 15-minute performance. Some eyes sparkled and occasionally one person nodded to another in approval. One man grinned as he made his way with a walker into the dining room.

The center, on West Main Street, offers a variety of services to the elderly, disabled and to those who cannot leave their homes. For a \$20 annual fee, members can play games, such as dominoes and cards, take computer classes, or attend fundraisers and social events.

The center also offers lunch on weekdays, for \$2.50. Others are welcome, at \$5.50 a meal, said center director Crystal McGuire, 52.

Dakota Senior Meals provides the meals and makes home deliveries.

Assistant cooks Michelle Alter and Lori Herting said

they serve an average of 75 meals a day at the center and deliver another 30 meals to homes.

Alter and Herting enjoy the seniors' companionship. "They are so funny," Herting said. "They always tell the best stories."

For Betty Knutson and others at the center, the shared stories and musical concerts are part of the center's appeal.

Betty Knutson, 82, grew up in nearby Yankton and moved to Vermillion and entered farm life in 1945 after getting married. She said her life changed dramatically.

"I didn't even know what crops were growing in the field," she said, laughing.

*Neda Spotted Wolf, Hidatsa/Chippewa, is a student at Montana State University, Bozeman.*



# Editor is trailblazer for paper's virtual dash

When injury ended his sports career, Jim Cheeseman found fresh legs as a journalist

BY CHARLES PULLIAM  
Staff Writer

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D.** — A knee injury knocked Jim Cheeseman off the field and into the newsroom.

Sliding to the plate went the wrong way during a high school baseball game in his home town of Millville, N.J., he said. Ligament damage and a sprained knee were the result.

The local newspaper, now known as The Daily Journal, needed someone to report scores.

Cheeseman limped in as a volunteer but later moved into a paid position. That was more than 20 years ago.

Now Cheeseman is the multimedia news editor for the Argus Leader. Hired in 1993, he worked his way to the sports editor position. Cheeseman then became the business editor before taking his current job.

"I knew the basic principles of economics," Cheeseman said. "Sports just happened to be what I covered."

Cheeseman also coached a baseball team his two young sons played on. As they got older, he said, he moved out of the dugout and into the stands, mirroring his transition in the newsroom from sports editor to business editor.

The switch wasn't as difficult as one might think.

"I believe stories are all about people," he said. "A good story is a good story, whether it is news, sports or business."

Cheeseman supervises audio and video production.

As the Argus Leader plunges into multimedia, Cheeseman is in control.



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Jim Cheeseman grew up reading "printed" newspapers and adjusts to the internet age. "There is no trail to follow" in multimedia.**

"We're leading the way for our corporation," Cheeseman said.

According to Cheeseman, the Argus Leader is helping to pilot the Gannett Co. into the Internet age and is a "test lab" to find out how newspapers within the company will adjust to a changing news industry.

"I just don't have any rules," Cheeseman said. "The bad news is there is no trail to follow."

Newspapers are struggling to find ways

to keep up with the rapid changes in technology and to maintain readership, as the difference among news media is shrinking.

"I am sad because I grew up in print," Cheeseman said. "I miss the dominance that was there. It's an evolution."

The Argus Leader is adding video and audio to its Web site and offers updates online for viewers.

"We have to do it," Cheeseman said.

Cheeseman said the speed of the Internet strengthens newspapers in their competi-

tion with broadcast news outlets.

"We (print) had the advantage in depth and TV had the advantage in time. But now we are adding more and more to balance out," Cheeseman said.

"I love my job and can't imagine doing anything else," he said.

*Charles Pulliam, Aleut, is a student at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.*

## A photojournalist's long path to multimedia

Corey Myers' new favorite tool is the Internet, with its boundless space and great potential for storytelling

BY JACQUELYNE TAURIANEN  
Staff Writer

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D.** — He opened the package, admired the crystal statue and stopped cold at the nameplate: Corey Myers.

Cory Myers related the story of the first time he saw his Hearst Journalism Award, which he won in 2001 for being a finalist in the photo category, as a senior attending the University of Montana.

"It is very ironic. Here I have this national journalism award and they spell my name wrong," Myers said. "My mother wanted me to give it back so they could correct their error, but it was too funny to give back."

Six years later, Myers has put away his camera and works as a senior editor of multimedia at the Argus Leader.

Photojournalism "is still where my love lies, but now I get to work in this new and exciting field," Myers said.

Myers' job gives him a leading role in the Argus Leader's transition from newspaper to an online "information center," as executive editor Randell Beck calls it.

"Multimedia is about getting

information to where people want it," said Myers, and when they want it. People no longer need to wait for the morning "print product" or an evening newscast. In the new media, they can get their news online, on cell phones and on lunch breaks.

As the relevance of the Internet has increased, so have the responsibilities for Myers.

Myers puts stories online and makes sure that photos and reports are of high quality, he said. "While multimedia is many people's responsibilities, I am like an ambassador," he said, making sure everything is getting done.

Myers likes working at the Argus Leader because it is "progressive and a great place to be for journalists," he said. The newspaper is working hard to get ahead of the curve for multimedia, Myers said.

"There is a finite amount of space in papers but not online," Myers said.

Anything that can't fit in the newspaper can be put online, including extra information and photo galleries that display as "many local faces as possible," he said.

After internships at Great Falls Tribune and Bozeman Daily Chronicle in Montana and the Reno

Gazette-Journal in Nevada, Myers' career got off to a rough start. He worked for only a week and a half at The Augusta Chronicle in Georgia, his first newsroom job out of college, and then 16 months at the Cody Enterprise in Wyoming.

Myers worked for two and half years at The Times-News in Twin Falls, Idaho, where he met his wife, Megan.

"I was taking her headshot for an article she had written as an intern, and the rest is history," Myers said.

The two were hired by the Argus Leader, Megan as a reporter and Cory as a photo chief. He received a promotion to his current position after working there for about a year.

Myers said he recognizes the importance of multimedia and was glad to accept his position even though it meant giving up his passion of photography.

"I am no longer a working photojournalist but better," Myers said. "I have a bigger say in what goes on, more responsibilities, and as Randell (Beck) always says, 'a seat at the table.'"

*Jacquelyne Taurianen, Sault Ste. Marie, is a student at the University of Michigan.*



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Photojournalism "is still where my love lies, but now I get to work in this new and exciting field," Cory Myers says about trading in his camera for a new set of equipment.**



# The dream job is in the details

By AMANDA TELLER  
Staff Writer

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D.** — Jane Thaden-Lawson had a knack for editing. She noticed her tendency to correct mistakes in the local paper in Wilmot, S.D. She read and found mistakes day after day.

At South Dakota State University, she majored in environmental management until the semester before she was to receive her bachelor’s degree. Thaden-Lawson said the idea of always being outside and researching one subject no longer appealed to her. She switched to journalism.

Thaden-Lawson, 33, started her job at the Argus Leader 10 years ago. Working at the copy desk was her “ideal place to start,” she said, because it kept her aware of what was going on in the world.

“I could read for a living,” she said. “It was great.”

The experience she gained as a copy editor was invaluable, she said, but the job was stressful.

“When one is working in news, it is particularly crucial to have every detail accurate,” she said.

Now an assistant Life editor, she designs the layouts for the weekly section that deals with lifestyle themes.

“If she’s stressed, she never shows it,” said Angela Parr, assistant page designer. “She’s always very calm and collected.”

To help her relax, she loves to play the piano. Frederic Chopin and Claude Debussy are her favorite composers to play, she said. If she’s not playing the piano, she is reading a book.

“I have a fondness for fun mystery books,” Thaden-Lawson said. “But I can read everything except for science fiction.”

“I would like to write a book one day,”



MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Jane Thaden-Lawson, an assistant Life editor at the Argus Leader, designs layouts for a section with lifestyle themes.**

she said shyly.

She also loves to travel, but only for vacations. She often accompanies her husband, Steven Lawson, to California where his parents live. Her most recent trip was to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. She has not strayed far from her Wilmot roots where her parents still live on their farm.

“I love the prairie,” said Thaden-Lawson.

Every Fourth of July, she reads “Prairies,” a long poem by William Cullen Bryant, to keep her connected to the country and the land.

“She is one of the most positive people I’ve ever met,” said Sarah Carlson, a co-worker in graphic design. She added that Thaden-Lawson is one of the first to arrive and last to leave in the graphic design sec-

tion.

“If you were to look up work ethics in a dictionary,” Carlson said, “you would see Jane under the definition.”

*Amanda Teller, Navajo, is a student at the University of New Mexico, Gallup.*

# Carlson adds pizzazz with graphics

By NEDA SPOTTED WOLF  
Staff Writer

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D.** — Imagine picking up a newspaper early in the morning before the first cup of coffee kicks in and realizing there is nothing on the page but words.

This is where Argus Leader graphic designer Sarah Carlson comes in handy.

Writers and photographers are not the only ones to add color and pizzazz to newspapers. Graphic designers make art, ads and pictures jump out and grab the reader’s attention.

Wearing a bright, pink blouse and black, chic glasses, her blonde hair in an upswept hairdo, Carlson turned toward her desk and picked up a stack of books as she talked about her job.

“I’m always looking for more ideas,” she said on a recent June day.

Carlson, 30, helped the Argus win a third place Best of Gannett award in 2004 for “Undiscovered South Dakota,” a publication she designed featuring stories and photographs capturing rural life.

The project “made you want to work,” she said. “The stories were about really local people.”

Carlson grew up in southeastern South Dakota in Wakonda, a town with a population of less than 400 people. She graduated in 1997 from the Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls with an associate degree in graphic communications.

Shortly after graduation, she was hired by the Argus Leader and worked in several departments before becoming part of the Life section team, Carlson said. As a graphic designer, she places art and ads so they are visually pleasing. She also makes sure the color in a photograph or picture



MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Argus Leader graphic designer Sarah Carlson shows her creativity through her ad designs, art and photos.**

attracts the reader’s eye and complements the adjoining story.

In her personal life, Carlson sings alto in her church choir and performs at weddings. She used to see the bride marching down the aisle and think, “Someday that’s going to be me.” Not anymore.

Last October, she was the bride.

Carlson met her husband Richard while they both worked at the Argus and said that co-workers were not surprised when they learned of the romance.

“We were always best friends,” she said of her husband who was a photographer at

the Argus.

Since leaving the newspaper, her husband has been tutoring his wife in photography, she said, and copy editor Angela Parr said that Carlson has developed “very good” skills.

Carlson also wants to learn Web design and hopes to take classes on the subject at her alma mater. She said she often sees Web pages that are plain and she would love to make them more appealing.

Jane Thaden-Lawson, assistant Life editor, said Carlson spends “every spare moment” helping others with projects and

computer programs.

Carlson did find time for a weeklong trip to the Black Hills with her husband recently. They took the top down on their jeep and “enjoyed the view.”

As a graphic designer, enjoying the view is what she wants the reader to do.

*Neda Spotted Wolf, Hidatsa/Chippewa, is a student at Montana State University.*



# Voices OF AIJI

## Sorry, dad. You're wrong. Pan-Indianism helps keep Native cultures alive

BY NANCY KELSEY  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. — Marlon Kelly has danced at powwows “since I could walk,” he said. His current fancy dancer regalia – in bright oranges, blues, reds – was made at home with his father. He finished it just in time for last year’s annual Oglala Nation Powwow, the biggest on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Powwows involve more than athleticism for the 18-year-old, who is an award-winning grass and fancy dancer. They involve more than meeting friends and family. Powwows are about more than the attention in the arena. They are about staying involved in his Native American culture in a positive way. “I just dance for the people who can’t dance and are sick,” he said. “It’s a healing dance.” That’s why it shouldn’t matter that he is an Oglala Lakota/Navajo who dances in styles not historically from his tribes. Kelly is one example of many around Indian Country who demonstrate an evolution

of cultures that scholars have called pan-Indianism. Today the biggest display of this intertribal exchange is the powwow. Few powwows came through Cleveland where I grew up. And because my father was an avid critic of powwows, I skipped many of those that did. Since Dad was my hero, I never asked questions. Yes, my dad, a Native person, is anti-powwow. At the risk of sounding like a daddy’s girl, I think he is the most compassionate and deep thinking Native man I know. Still, on the value of the powwow in Indian Country we disagree. Dad says tribal cultures have been decimated by strategic killings, boarding schools and disease as well as more recent factors. He maintains that we, as Native peoples, have lost so much of our culture that many in our tribe resort to cultural borrowing. That is what happens at powwows, he says, and that is phony and wrong. “They’re fun but are they culturally relevant? Not every tribe has the same thing. We’re self-deceiving,” my dad said earlier this month. “The traditions of another tribe we cannot accept as our own. You may

call that pan-Indianism, but it’s still not authentic.” We’re supposed to be 500 nations. You can’t just lump us together and make us run around in circles in the clothes of yesteryears.” Many people developed their traditions from anthropologists who do not know our history, he said. Socially, powwows are fun. But “it’s not us.” I bought into this argument — defending it in friendly debates for years — until I went off to college. When I was a student at Creighton University, a Native American Studies professor challenged my long-held view of powwows. Just as any other culture changes, he said, so does mine. The roots of pan-Indianism go deeper than powwows, though. Tecumseh’s resistance to European settlers hints of early pan-Indianism, said Jerome Kills Small, a University of South Dakota professor of American Indian studies. Tecumseh, a Shawnee leader, was a master of joining the forces of many tribes, even enemies, by borrowing from and adapting to each of their cultures to persuade them to fight a larger threat: European invaders. Tecumseh, Kills Small said, adopted from the Red Stick Confederacy of the South and the Iroquois Confederacy of the North to unify them around the beginning of the 18th century. As a former powwow arena director, fundraiser, coordinator and dancer, Kills Small knows his stuff. He remembers seeing cowboys take off their hats and take to the arena floor when he was a boy. He had a cowboy hat, too. At the next powwow, he took it off and carefully made his way out to the floor. With his hat raised, head bobbing and feet beating the floor to the sound of the drum, Kills Small was—unbeknownst to him at

the time—contributing to the evolution of Native culture. “I borrowed from their style,” he said of the cowboys. Powwows are all about borrowing. His father, Kills Small said, first introduced speaker systems to powwows inspired by how they were used at rodeos. Much of the powwow—from the grand entry to the introduction of the royalty—comes from rodeos. The pan-Indian nature of powwows is also important because it reflects the intermarriage of Native peoples, he said. They reflect how Natives have adapted to change. Regalia is another aspect of the powwow that mirrors this notion of adaptation, he said. The regalia has gotten brighter and shinier than it was traditionally. Ultimately, I am a reluctant supporter of pan-Indianism. If there were a way to retain only our tribal identity, without pulling from others, that would be great. Today that is unrealistic. And I am not willing to sacrifice the remnants of what remains—whether from my tribe or not— for the sake of tribal snobbery. Sorry, Dad. If pan-Indianism means that a Seminole is keeping a Native tradition alive by working on grass dancing regalia, or a Cherokee is learning Navajo songs, or an Ojibwe spectator is spending an afternoon socializing with Choctaws, Shoshones and Mohawks in a positive way, then yes, it is worth it. If supporting powwows means that there will be more proud Natives like Marlon Kelly learning about the great tribes of North America, then I’m all for it despite the criticism—even from my dad. By the way, happy belated Father’s Day, dad.

Nancy Kelsey, Little River Band of Ottawa, is a student at the University of Nebraska.

# Views OF THE BIG SCREEN

BY TROY DONEY  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D.— "Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End" is the penultimate chapter to the "Pirates of the Caribbean" trilogy, the latest film by Gore Verbinski. Verbinski, the director of "Mousehunt" and "The Ring," hits you with enough flash and bang in this movie to startle a sloth. His cast fires on every engine they have. But as you will read, running as fast as you can doesn't do a thing for you, if you're going nowhere fast. Johnny Depps latest stint as the eccentric pirate Jack Sparrow is as natural and intense as ever. There was a fantastic line, where a character asks if Sparrow "plans it all out, or is he making it up as he goes along?" Depp epitomizes manic energy, unpredictability and malevolent trickery. The character is starting to grow a bit thin, though. What was once refreshingly new is now painfully stagnant. While Depp never fails to entertain, the character of Sparrow skirts on the edge of being annoying. Geoffrey Rush's return to the role of the treacherous Barbossa was the film's best treat. A fantastic counterpoint to Jack Sparrow, Rush has a calm, collected presence, that translates into a cold, calculating confidence. He seems to be sneering at everyone he meets with quiet contempt in every scene. In situations definitely deserving a panicked scream, Barbossa lets loose with his gleeful cackle. He makes this movie a must see. Orlando Bloom is just like he was in the past two Pirates movies and just like he was in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy before

## Pirates sink

that. In almost any movie that Bloom is in, he unerringly plays a character with the same tone of voice, the same delivery, with the only difference being his costume and type of sword he's holding this time. His Will Turner character is still as captivating as saltine crackers with all the magnetism of a rather interesting greyhound. He also desperately needs to shave what he passes off as facial hair. As far as picking appropriate actors to be a couple, Keira Knightley is the perfect companion for Bloom. She's just as bland, uninteresting, and static as Bloom. Her character is also the patsy for yet another round of bad jokes. I imagine that the world of pirates wasn't kind to women, but it seemed more like a cruel joke than anything else. Tom Hollander plays the part of Lord Cutler Beckett well. A cold, manipulative character, he convinces you that the only difference between him and the pirates that he hunted was a bath and corporate sponsorship. This is also one of the large failings of the movie. He never seemed to be appropriate as the main antagonist of the movie. With such powerful personalities and resourceful protagonists floating through the film, Hollander is rendered mute and ineffective. Unable to convey a threat, he comes off more like a faceless barker of orders rather than a true threat

able to rout the entire pirate way of life. Speaking of unimpressive antagonists... Bill Nighy is effective and appropriate as Davy Jones, the most prevalent antagonist of the film. But as I mentioned earlier, this doesn't help the movie much. The character of Jones is still as over-the-top and hokey as he was in the previous film. How can you feel threatened by a man who plays a pipe organ with tentacles that hang off of his face? Nighy is expected to portray the character as not just threatening, but tragic as well. This has unintended consequences, causing the reviewer to guffaw loudly in the theater as a man with a squid-face sheds a tear. The other treat of the film, Naomie Harris reprises her role as the frightening and alluring Tia Dalma. Her accent is as indecipherable as ever, but she was still the scene stealer whenever she was visible. While her character suffered some bizarre and ultimately unsatisfying twists, she was still more enjoyable than a bag full of Orlando Blooms (who also couldn't act their way out of said bag). Verbinski kept this film moving at breakneck speed. While this is appropriate for the most part, it doesn't allow you to appreciate a single moment. You have scant time to catch your breath before you're thrown into the next rollercoaster. Also, a lot of jokes and themes from the first movie were

once again re-used. I'm aware that the intended effect was book ending, the literary device where events at the end mirror events at the beginning. This came off more like recycling of dialogue rather than artistic inspiration. The film also had one major flaw: Over-complexity. I'm aware that it's something you don't hear very often when one criticizes a summer blockbuster. The characters of the film start their double-dealing early, continue it as the film progresses, and proceed to add layers to treachery, pseudo alliances to further ulterior motives, and hidden plots with secret agendas, until suddenly, you don't know who's doing what for what reason anymore. While this could've been an asset, it comes off more like a game of dodgeball in the dark. Nobody knows what anybody else is doing, but they're still going to attack. Which is what seems to happen endlessly. If the characters aren't engaged in confusing and pointless backstabbery, then they're engaged in pointless naval warfare. Cannons fire for what seems like hours and swordfights that could be timed with a sundial. If the dialogue seems repetitive, the action seems to make it almost refreshing. Don't assume it's all bad. The movie fulfills it's main purpose and then some: Above average action flick. As soon as it starts, by hook or crook, you're there until the end. While it's a visually pleasing film, it's also guilty of trying far too hard. I give "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" a firm three out of five frybreads.





# Please! Push the save button!

## Thoughts from three weeks inside a journalism cocoon

By NEDA SPOTTED WOLF  
Staff Writer

### Journalism trek ... in heels

Submitted by Neda Spotted Wolf on Thu, 2007-06-07 23:08.

They abandoned me. The van full of AIJI students departed the dorm's drive-way for dinner at the Al Neuharth Media Center yesterday at the same time my friend Amanda and I rushed frantically down the hall toward the front door.

I blame those extra five minutes of rest I had allowed myself to take for having to dash out of my room in my business casual attire. I cannot remember if the extra sleep had invigorated me or not, but I can still feel every footstep taken in those brown boots with high, skinny heels.

### Saving Seigenthaler

Submitted by Neda Spotted Wolf on Fri, 2007-06-08 14:42.

For the love of all things holy, please push the save button!

John Seigenthaler shared with AIJI students and staff Wednesday evening, the torment he experienced when the popular Web site Wikipedia repeatedly posted false, hurtful information about him.

My computer froze last night, and I thought I lost my story about him. This morning, I bypassed the delectable breakfast, usually served in the dorm cafeteria, in order to attempt to recreate the report. Due to a miracle, the computer had magically thawed overnight.

But if I had lost the information, I still would never have forgotten his words.

"They never know death at Wikipedia," he said, meaning even when damaging

information is taken off the online biography site, the lies are merely moved to either the history or archive pages. Defamation's sick smell then lurks like a zombie.

They do know death at Wikipedia, however, and comedian Sinbad can attest to that.

### I wonder whilst I wander

Submitted by Neda Spotted Wolf on Mon, 2007-06-11 18:37.

"What if I die here?"

AIJI student Nancy and I went for a hike on a scenic, woody trail this past Saturday at Lewis and Clark Lake, and that thought passed through my mind.

Of course, I was being facetious.

The area we hiked was small so we were never in danger of becoming lost, but for the 10 seconds of venturing down an unmapped trail I imagined the "what ifs."

What if the trails mystically led us into another dimension like in the twilight zone? What if we run into a bear, even though there aren't any in the area? Should we play dead or take pictures?

We returned to the lakeside site where the rest of the AIJI group played, tanned and rested. After playing a game of volleyball, I hopped on a bike and pedaled three picturesque miles to the marina.

"What if I started a ferry service that would take a person from South Dakota to Nebraska by canoe?"

### Juste living life

Submitted by Neda Spotted Wolf on Sun, 2007-06-17 18:24.

Passion sometimes hides inside many people. I'll admit that many times it lies like a timid dragon close to my heart without the courage to unfurl its fire.

Carl Juste's passion is the fire.

The photojournalist, a three-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, has worked at the Miami Herald for 18 years and visited with and mentored American Indian Journalism Institute students this past week.

"I ask you, I plead with you, don't waste the opportunity that you have," Juste said.

Juste spoke words saturated with so much profundity and I tried to capture them with a pen and paper, but that's not his goal: He wants us to live our own lives so we can create our own.

The timid dragon will be unleashed one day, I promise.

### Just say no

Submitted by Neda Spotted Wolf on Sun, 2007-06-17 18:54.

That's right. I accepted that cookie.

I was offered it during my interview with an Argus Leader graphic designer last Tuesday and I later wondered if I had been unprofessional.

I was.

I could say I accepted it because that's the "Indian way," but who's kidding whom? They were some tasty-looking cookies. I have a sweet tooth but most important, I felt like I was catching up with a long-lost friend.

My interview with Sarah Carlson was going well, even before I accepted the treat and I had already made up my mind that she was a warm person. However taking gifts (cookies don't have to be gift-wrapped to be considered gifts), big or small, is deemed unethical journalism.

That natural instinct of feeling obligated to say, "Sure, thank you," has to be trained to say, "Thank you for the gesture, however I cannot accept this."

What my mother and elders told me

was proper on this matter has no place in the newsroom. When I refuse something, please don't take offense.

Hopefully honest, unbiased reporting will prove my gratitude and the cookies saved will be enough to allow the Keebler elves to enjoy an extra day off.

### Chinese food and fun

Submitted by Neda Spotted Wolf on Mon, 2007-06-18 14:08.

Honey chicken was victorious in claiming the title of Neda's Favorite Chinese Food Item, defeating sweet and sour chicken by a surprisingly wide margin.

Andi, Candace and I ate at the Chinese Buffet on Cherry Street Saturday evening. There were people at two other tables that night, including a cute, little baby at the next table at whom Candace and I were waving and making googly faces.

On Sunday night, Andi and I decided to go back to the same place for dinner, but this time Amanda joined us. We were the only customers so words from our conversation swirled around the room, bounced off the walls and echoed in the hollowness.

I know the waitress was listening to our conversation, even though she was rolling silverware in napkins about 25 feet away. I know I would've been, if I were her, because I wouldn't have been able to help it. I would have been battling boredom.

Please help save this waitress from ho-hum afternoons. Go try the honey chicken if nothing else. Then when you get your fortune cookie, read it out loud, add "in bed" and then giggle with your friends.

Neda Spotted Wolf, Hidatsa/Chippewa, is a student at Montana State University.

# Big action noise, low amusement

By TROY DONEY  
Staff Writer

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer" is the sequel to Fantastic Four, which was directed by Tim Story, who previously directed "Taxi" and "Barbershop". The film is loud, bright, big, and fast. Sound and fury, signifying nothing.

The plot was straightforward, and for that, it must be appreciated. No attempts were made to make this highbrow entertainment. At no point did anyone try to fool themselves into thinking this was anything more than it obviously is, a moderately entertaining action film.

Ioan Gruffudd played Reed Richards, the super-scientist-in-residence. Gruffudd made a good try out of it too. Ultimately, he seemed less like a genius and more like someone who memorized some large words to blurt out when scientific sounding pseudo-jargon was necessary. Also, computer-generated imaging isn't the fault of the actor, but it's still hard to take the stretchy guy seriously.

Speaking of problems taking someone seriously, Jessica Alba reprises her role as Sue Storm, the Invisible Woman. One of the few actors expected to express some form of emotion, I found it hard to take seriously that she was devastated by the abrupt interruption of her wedding, or the various other instances where she was expected to show emotion. Similarly, the sight of her in overly conspicuous glasses was enough to have me rolling in the aisles, her attempt to look intelligent was as effective as a mass

transit system centered around a series of catapults.

Chris Evans was strangely enjoyable as Johnny Storm. Overconfident, cocky, and short-sighted, he never let you stop knowing just how awesome he thinks he is.

Michael Chiklis was one of the bigger surprises of the movie as Ben Grimm. He was appropriately gruff, and played up his inadvertent destructive nature quite well. His frustration, and exultation, with his powers was evident and consistent.

Julian McMahon played one of the films antagonists, Victor Von Doom. I've always said that your heroes need to be opposed by an appropriately dastardly foe, and this is yet another example of a villain falling short. While deadly sly and downright abrasive, he never really seems to cross the precipice from jerk to menace. At one point in the film, he gains unlimited power, only to visit the Great Wall of China. Why someone with unlimited power and boundless ambition would drop by a tourist destination first is beyond me. It seemed to sum up the character, half-clever but ultimately unimpressive. I've been more afraid of parking enforcers.

Andre Braugher played General Hager, whose only purpose in the movie was to be consistently proven wrong. At the very least, he was good at it.

Doug Jones played the physical part of the Silver Surfer, and was downright superb at playing up the ethereal, otherworldly nature of the Surfer. His mannerisms and stature were unorthodox, strange and incredibly emotive. Even though he looked very human, he was still very alien.



Laurence Fishburne was the voice of the Silver Surfer, of which little can be said. Yes, his voice was deep and resonant. The character didn't seem to need to express himself through dialogue very often, which seemed to make judging this section of the character moot. For what it's worth, it's a good combination.

A creature to show off some interesting computer generated graphics and action sequences, "Rise of the Silver Surfer" isn't the worst way to spend your night, but I can definitely think of better ways. If noth-

ing else, it's true to itself. Otherwise, it's a shallow, predictable, and overly formulaic movie that will help get you through a box of popcorn.

I give Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer a 2 out of 5 frybreads.



Troy Doney, Assiniboine, is a student at the University of Montana.



# Sports ON THE SCENE



Buck Coats, right, of the Iowa Cubs takes second base during a game against the New Orleans Zephyrs in Des Moines, Iowa. The Zephyrs went on to win the game 9-3.

DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Zephyrs keep a hot streak alive

BY CHARLES PULLIAM  
Staff Writer

**DES MOINES, Iowa** — The New Orleans Zephyrs are leaving Iowa, but they probably wouldn't mind sticking around to keep playing.

With a 9-3 win, New Orleans capped an impressive four-game series Sunday against the Iowa Cubs in Triple-A baseball action at Principal Park.

"As a team, I think we just finished the best series of the year for us," Zephyrs left fielder Chip Ambres said.

In the series, the Zephyrs racked up 52 runs on 66 hits. They had nine home runs.

"Offensively, we were great," New Orleans manager Ken Oberkfell said.

The Zephyrs batted .369 in the series. Iowa won the first game 9-6 on Thursday, but the Zephyrs rebounded with an 18-8 win Friday. New Orleans' best game came Saturday, when it won 19-4 with a franchise-record 25 hits. Third baseman Jake Gautreau went 6-for-7 on Saturday with eight RBIs. Ambres was 10-for-21 with three homers and nine RBIs in the series.

"We were just trying to get on base," Ambres said.

On Sunday, second baseman Jason Alfaro finished 3-for-4 with a home run and three RBIs to lead the Zephyrs. Ambres extended his hit streak to eight games, going 1-for-4

and driving in two runs.

New Orleans started early Sunday on its way to another hitting barrage.

Anderson Hernandez's home run on the second pitch of the game set the tempo. Cubs pitcher Ryan O'Malley gave up another homer to Alfaro, the third batter. The ball nearly reached the Des Moines River, and the Zephyrs led 2-0 in the first inning.

After the Zephyrs scored two more runs in the third inning, Cubs right fielder Buck Coats got his team on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fourth. Alfaro fumbled a ground ball, and Coats' run made the score 4-1.

Veteran catcher Sandy Alomar Jr., a six-time major league All-Star, capped the fifth inning with a two-run homer that pushed the Zephyrs' lead to 8-1. Alomar Jr., the American League Rookie of the Year in 1990, has played for six major league teams, including the 1997 Cleveland Indians, who fell short in the World Series against the Florida Marlins.

Frustration was another factor in favor of the Zephyrs in the bottom of the fifth.

Cubs left fielder Mike Kinkade was ejected by umpire Scott Chamberlin after a close play at first base. Kinkade hit a hard grounder that Hernandez scooped up near second base, beating the Cubs' Ronny Cedenio to the bag. Hernandez's throw to first completed the double play.

"We were great at working the bases both ways," Ambres said.

Losing Kinkade was another bad break for the Cubs, who then lacked one of the few bright spots from the previous game. Kinkade had a homer and scored two runs Saturday. Trailing 9-3, the Cubs had an opportunity in the bottom of the sixth to close the gap. But with the bases loaded and two outs, Ambres caught first baseman Micah Hoffpauir's fly ball to deep left field to close the inning.

Hoffpauir's drive fell 15 feet short of the wall. Ambres snatched the hopes of the more than 8,000 Cubs fans with a catch.

"I just played it back, and I know they (Iowa) have good power," Ambres said, "I got a good break on it."

The Cubs didn't threaten again. They tallied 16 hits but managed only three runs.



DEVIN WAGNER ■  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Pitcher Ryan O'Malley of the Cubs sits quietly.**

Sunday's loss dropped the Cubs to 36-26, while the Zephyrs won their third consecutive game and their second series in a row, improving to 33-31. New Orleans swept Salt Lake in the first week of June.

Iowa still maintains the best record in the Pacific Coast League standings, and New Orleans pushed its lead in the PCL South to one game over Albuquerque.

Phillip Humber (7-4) earned the victory. He has won five straight for the Zephyrs. Humber gave up 13 hits and struck out four in five innings. Ryan O'Malley (3-5) took the loss for the Cubs.

**Zephyrs notes:** In the first week of May, Iowa swept New Orleans; the finale was Humber's last loss. ... With the help of 16 doubles, New Orleans raised its team batting average to .278, up from .270 before the series. ... Gautreau said his second home, New Orleans, is well on the path to recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "They have cleaned up most of the city," Gautreau said, "It's just we have only about one-third of the people in the stands. I'm just glad to be going home soon." Ambres mentioned the rebuilding process and said he wants to help New Orleans by making the fans happy. "I'm just glad to be there and put smiles on the fans' faces," he said.

*Charles Pulliam, Aleut, is a student at the University of Alaska.*

## Problems at the mound leave Cubs down and out

BY CANDACE BEGODY  
Staff Writer

**DES MOINES, Iowa** — The Iowa Cubs extended their losing streak to three games after the visiting New Orleans Zephyrs won, 9-3, in the final meeting of a four-game series June 10 at Principal Park.

The Cubs (36-26) stumbled after winning the first game in the series. The Zephyrs (33-31) outscored the Cubs, 46-15, over the past three games, the last of which drew a crowd announced at 8,401.

In the first inning, Ryan O'Malley, a lefty, sent the Zephyrs Anderson Hernandez and Jason Alfaro around the diamond, each for a homerun lap, giving the Zephyrs a 2-0 lead.

"I really tried to work on taking it pitch to pitch," O'Malley said after the game. "They were a good hitting team. We just had to tip our hats to their hitting."

O'Malley's manager shook his head in disappointment.

"They killed us," said Buddy Bailey, with emphasis on the "killed" part. "Anytime you give away homeruns to the other team in the first inning, the players lose some confidence."

"We didn't pitch very well from the beginning," he said, "and lost the momentum early on."

The Zephyrs scored twice more in the third inning to lead, 4-0.

With several opportunities to score, the Cubs struggled to chalk up even one run.

In their first good chance to score at the bottom of the third inning, the Cubs loaded the bases with two outs. But Micah Hoffpauir's strikeout sent him and his teammates back to the dugout and ended the inning, Zephyrs still leading, 4-0.

In the fourth inning the Cubs scored their first run. Right-fielder Buck Coats raced to home plate on a field error by Zephyrs second baseman, Eric Patterson.

In response, the Zephyrs did more than make up for that last run. They took control in the fifth inning, scoring another four runs and giving them an 8-1 lead.

"I've never seen anything quite like it," said left fielder Mike Kinkade, who was dismissed from the game in the fifth inning after disputing an umpire's call. The

Zephyrs pitcher, he said, "came up with good ways to get them out of those jams," when the bases were loaded.

The Cubs then scored a run in each of the fifth and sixth innings. Third baseman Scott Moore sent a homerun out of the park toward the Des Moines River. Still, the Cubs didn't catch their opponents.

"We're going to get cold spells," Kinkade said, "and that's what we're going through now. We'll get them next time."

The Cubs will have their shot at settling the score when the Zephyrs return July 4 to Principal Park for a five-game series.

*Candace Begody, Navajo, is a student at the University of Arizona, Tucson.*



# A major adjustment

Behind plate for Mets' farm team, Sandy Alomar Jr. inspires players and fans while he waits for his big-league number to come up again

BY VICTORIA JACKSON-DICK  
Staff Writer

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – He was a Major League superstar, an American League Golden Glove winner and the American League's Rookie of the Year in 1990, a six-time All-Star and the All-Star Game's MVP in 1997. Why is a man with so many credentials playing baseball in the minor leagues?

Santos "Sandy" Alomar Jr., originally from Salinas, Puerto Rico, said he showed up late for spring training in the majors and the league had no room for him. After 19 major league seasons playing with the Padres, Indians, White Sox, Rockies and Rangers, he has temporarily settled in the minor leagues as a catcher with the New Orleans Zephyrs, the Mets' farm team.

Although he's not in the majors, Alomar

is still a star. He walked into Principal Park on a seven-game hitting streak, including a grand slam in April, and three hits and a home run in the previous game.

Against the Iowa Cubs on June 10, Alomar added to his hitting streak. In the fifth inning, his home run cleared the right center-field wall and added two RBIs to his statistics.

Alomar last appeared in the minor leagues in 1989. He turned 41 on June 18, and believes that playing in the minors is just part of the game.

As sweat rolled down his forehead to his neck, Alomar said the minors are "prepa-



Sandy Alomar Jr.

ration." He's not planning to stay in the minors forever; he's just another guy on the major league waiting list. But he does feel at home with the Zephyrs, he said, because the team is a kind of family. He's having a great time teaching pitchers, which helps him learn more and prepare in case he decides to coach someday.

But the minor leagues are different from the major leagues. Traveling is different. The ballparks are different. As

in changing careers, changing leagues takes adjustment.



MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sandy Alomar Jr., center, offers words of encouragement to fellow Zephyrs teammate, Phillip Humber.

"There are more mistakes in this league," Alomar said. The umpires try very hard, he said. They are young and they hustle. When the umps ask his opinion on the calls, he said, he works hard to treat them with respect and honesty. If they ask, he will give them honest answers "to be fair." There are so many different pitchers with different styles, umps sometimes make controversial decisions. He expects minor league umpires to make questionable calls.

Chip Ambres, left fielder for the Zephyrs described Alomar as a laid-back guy, someone you could ask anything. He also said Alomar is a veteran of the game and that an advantage is being able to pick his brain, which can "lead the team into the right direction."

Victoria Jackson-Dick, Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone, is a student at Great Basin College.

## A day at the park, scouting minor leagues for the Cubs

Dedicated to the business of baseball, Oneri Fleita loves to check out new talent

BY TESINA JACKSON  
Staff Writer

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – Jim Henderson of the Iowa Cubs nods to his catcher. He glances at the runner at third base. Henderson winds up for the pitch.

Stopwatch on.

The ball smacks the catcher's glove.

Stopwatch off.

"One-point-three seconds," says Oneri Fleita, who oversees Latin American scouting for the Chicago Cubs. "I don't know much about his background, but that was a good pitch."

Fleita squints at his stopwatch, fighting the sun's reflection, before erasing the 1.3 flashing on the screen.

For Fleita, scouting minor league players in the Chicago Cubs organization is just another day at the office.

But he's not in an office. He's not wearing a suit and tie. He's wearing khaki pants and a white polo shirt, sitting in the hard green plastic stadium seats. He looks just like everyone else, except he has a distinct feeling of seniority and he seems to be at ease with every play.

While many fans appear to watch with anticipation, Fleita seems to have the confidence and knowledge of how the Iowa Cubs play.

"I like doing what I do," Fleita says. "There aren't a lot of people who can say that. This isn't a 'I have to go to work again' job, it's something I have fun doing."

The Iowa Cubs play a 140-game sched-

ule. Fleita attends about ten of them. He also attends games of minor league teams affiliated with Chicago. He says the only time he sleeps in the same bed for 50 straight days is during spring training.

The Chicago Cubs are affiliated with six farm teams: the Boise Hawks, Daytona Cubs, Iowa Cubs, Mesa Cubs, Peoria Chiefs and Tennessee Smokies.

A farm team, or feeder team, is a team whose role is to provide experience and training for young players, as they battle their way to make it to the majors.

Fleita made it to the minors. He was born and raised in Key West, Fla. It was in 1975 when he started playing Little League. He received a degree in physical education from Creighton University in Nebraska, where he played baseball. He went on to play for the Bluefield Orioles of West Virginia for a year and a half.

"I guess you could say that I've been

around baseball my entire life," Fleita says. "And now I work at Wrigley Field."

As Fleita watches the Iowa Cubs, he leans over to talk with Mike Pelfrey, a New Orleans Zephyrs pitcher, in between starts for the opposing team.

As they talk quietly, Pelfrey, a younger man wearing jeans and a tan polo shirt, holds a radar gun and records the speeds of his team's pitcher.

Pelfrey played for the New York Mets for a year and a half as a starting pitcher. After he struggled, he was sent back to the minors.

"Each player is just a phone call away from playing in the majors at any time," Fleita says. "And we don't only look at the players, we look at the coaches. It's everyone's dream to make it to the majors."

Fleita points down at the Iowa Cubs manager Buddy Bailey, who was standing in the dugout.



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Boys cool off and play in the water fountain at Principal Park.

Mostly all major league players, coaches and even umpires start off their careers by working their way up the minor league system, from the lowest classification (Rookie) to the highest (AAA), Fleita says.

"It takes time to make it to the majors," Fleita says. "It's like going through elementary school. You gradually work your way up. You probably have a better chance of becoming a state senator than making it to the majors."

Of the 37 players on the Iowa Cubs roster this season, only six have gone to the majors.

As the game ends, the Cubs losing, Fleita stands for a moment and takes one last look at the team and walks out with the fans. Another day at the office ends.

Tesina Jackson, Cherokee, is a student at Ball State University.





Cubs fan Jon Wiese visits the Iowa Cubs gift shop to purchase memorabilia for his daughter, Carli.

PRINCELLA PARKER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Get in gear

## Fans snap up minibats and cup cozies

BY NEDA SPOTTED WOLF  
Staff Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — Baseballs autographed by Derek Jeter and Sammy Sosa and priced in the hundreds of dollars gather dust in Principal Park’s Cub Store.

But pink minibats?  
“We can’t keep them on the shelves,” said Adam Conley, a store employee.

Conley, 29, said the park has “strong ties to female fans” and that it only makes sense because half the Des Moines population is female.

Fans and their changing fashion needs

drive the park’s gift shop.

The most popular items in the store are the minibats, baseballs and hats, according to store manager Amber Gartner. She said the cup cozy, a large red fist-shaped drink holder, is a new item gaining in popularity.

Gartner, no relation to Iowa Cubs owner Michael Gartner, said store officials originally believed high-end memorabilia would be big sellers, but they soon found out the prices are “out of reach for the kids.”

Research helps prevent such mistakes. Gartner began her season attending meetings and trade shows to check out fashion trends. For instance, the faded, vintage

look, like those of Abercrombie & Fitch and American Eagle clothing, were adapted for baseball. But Gartner said the traditional styles would always be available.

Gartner calls the Cub Store a “light-hearted place to be.” Gift shop employees have the option of watching the game on their breaks, and many do, she said. Gartner says she hires new employees based on character.

Sales associate Shelly MacKinnon, 18, wants to one day follow in the footsteps of her brother Justin, an usher at Wrigley Field in Chicago. MacKinnon, a physical education major at Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minn., said her family always played sports together and that is how she came to love baseball.

“It’s really fun to be around everyone,” she said.

Crystal Grange also loves baseball and is a regular at Iowa Cubs games. She did not have a particular item in mind but was “looking for something” for her 13-year-old granddaughter, she said as she browsed through sweatshirts.

Some customers are season-ticket holders, Conley said, but the shopping majority is a “transient crowd,” meaning there are always new faces passing through.

Conley said one face stands out in his mind — a man who traveled to ballparks across the country. The man told Conley that Principal Park was his 57th. He bought an Iowa Cubs hat to commemorate his visit.

According to the manager, the shop’s average daily revenue is around \$5,000, with numbers fluctuating between \$3,000 and \$10,000. Last year, she said total revenue was close to \$325,000 and sales are “up quite a bit” this year.

The Cub Store is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. On game days the store is also open 1 1/2 hours before game time and closes about a half-hour after the game.

A side entrance to the gift shop makes it accessible when the stadium is closed.

*Neda Spotted Wolf, Hidatsa/Chippewa, is a student at Montana State University.*

# Cost of a day at the ballpark doesn’t keep fans from coming back

BY AMANDA TELLER  
Staff Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa—John Krois loves bringing his son, Adam, to watch Cubs games, and the cost doesn’t really matter.

“It’s a friendly, fun place to go to,” Krois said. “It’s also very clean and very well-kept.”

Krois said although the prices are expensive—he estimated he spends \$40 to \$50 each time—he doesn’t mind because the park provides a safe, comfortable place for him and his son to share his love of baseball.

For large families, Sunday is the ideal day to come to the park and save money because the park offers a Sunday Family Pack, which costs \$40. The family pack includes four general admission tickets, four hot dogs, four large drinks and four baseball caps.

The Cowleys and the Gilkesons came to the game together because their sons play on the same Little League team.

“I come for the entertainment, but the boys really do love baseball,” Atina Cowley



said of her three children, Kinzie, Tray and Ty. “They love watching Cubbie Bear or trying to catch the hot dog or T-shirt throw. We never catch them, but the kids always try.”

Jeanine and Jeff Gilkeson enjoy bringing their family to a game at least three times a year whenever their busy schedules allow.

“It gives the family something to do, but it’s not a usual Sunday thing,” Jeanine Gilkeson said.

While her husband, Jeff, estimated they spend an average of \$80 each time, she said they spend \$50 to \$60 each time. Their purchases include general admission tickets, hot dogs, drinks, french fries and the occasional beer.

Nicci Marcus said her family spends an average of \$50 to \$70 per game, depending on whether they buy a beer or souvenir.

The last game they attended was when

## HOW IT ADDS UP

- General admission - \$6 per person
- Parking - \$6
- Hot dogs - \$3 each
- Drinks - \$4.25 or less each
- Nachos - \$4.50
- French fries - \$3.50
- Beer - \$7.50 for canned 24 oz.
- Souvenir - \$8 for the favorite #1 foam finger
- \*Average - \$50 to \$70 per game

Souvenir vendor scans the crowd for potential customers during a Cubs game.

JASA SANTOS  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

their daughter, Hanna, won tickets from the local library and took her father, Andy, on a “daddy date,” Nicci Marcus said. She said her husband and daughter share an interest in baseball. The family recently moved from Arizona where Andy Marcus had season tickets to the Arizona Diamondbacks.

“Since they don’t have major league baseball here in Des Moines, this is the next best thing,” he said.

Although Nicci Marcus has no interest in the sport, it is the family aspect of baseball that brings her to the game. The park gives her family an opportunity to “just get out and have fun,” she said. The bond with her family outweighs the marked price of attending the game.

*Amanda Teller, Navajo, is a student at the University of New Mexico-Gallup.*



# Take me out to the ballgame

## America's pastime is more about community than victory

BY MELISSA MORGAN  
Staff writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — They come to socialize, to entertain the kids, to get out of doing yard work. And for many, the thought process doesn't go much deeper than that.

"My wife loves (baseball)," joked Brad Harris of Grinnell, Iowa, during a Cubs game on June 10 in Principal Park. His wife, Lynette, laughed.

"Brad is full of beans," she later said while braiding their daughter Daisy's hair. "I'm just along for the ride."

The fans had perfectly good reasons for attending, but it seems like the game called "America's pastime" deserves more than that. Shouldn't we feel more passionate about a game with that title?

At a minor league baseball game, where tickets are inexpensive (\$6 for general admission), fans don't have many serious thoughts or feelings about the game.

Like the Harrisese, many families show up at the games.

"That's where the future is," said Clay Porter, 65, of Adel, Iowa. "You need to keep



In a family affair, a father holds his young son as they wait for their snacks at Principal Park.

JASA SANTOS  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the kids coming."

Those children seemed just as happy to be playing in the stadium's fountain, as they were to watch the game. One little girl, dressed in an Iowa Cubs cheerleading outfit danced between the sprays of water, her wet hair sticking to her face. Other children tried to stay cool by filling baseball hats with water and dumping them on their heads.

Perhaps we attend ballgames for a reason that's difficult to explain. People need to feel a connection to others. We like to feel like we're all part of the same ritual. Like the songs and activities – the same played at every game. This was seen while the songs and games that were played, the same songs and activities that are probably played at every game. When the Little League team sang "Take me out to the ball

game," almost everyone stood, clapping their hands and singing, from the small, energetic children to the elderly who had trouble getting out of their chairs.

That day, the crowd filled about half of the stadium. There were babies in strollers and gray-haired retirees in wheelchairs. Fans came dressed in short shorts and tube tops, exposing multiple tattoos, while others were more conservative in khaki pants and long-sleeved shirts. They were Rosie O'Donnell-obese and Nicole Richie-skinny.

All the crowd lacked was some color - of the skin variety. Out of a crowd of 8,401, there were maybe two dozen minorities, and that's probably pushing it.

Of course, Des Moines is overwhelmingly white, with less than 10 percent of the population being people of color.

Garrette Boone, an African American

from Des Moines, said he attends the games regularly with his mixed-race family and doesn't let the lack of racial diversity bother him.

"It's going to be a long, hard road and there's a lot of healing that needs to be done," Boone said, explaining racial tension and possible reasons that minorities might not want to attend the game.

He added that minorities need to "stop griping" and start branching out more.

"There's opportunities for everyone," Boone said. "It's just a matter of how hard you wanna go to get it."

After all, regardless of skin color, doesn't everyone want to get out of yard work?

Melissa Morgan, Ely Shoshone, is a student at the University of Montana.

# Cubbie Bear uncovered

## It's not all smiles and sunshine for Iowa's mascot ... all that fur makes him steamy

BY NANCY KELSEY  
Staff writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — This is a typical day at work for Mark Dempsey. He wears a brown, furry costume instead of a suit and tie. His work attire includes a bear head that makes him about seven feet tall and is fixed in a tongue-bearing smile. Stitched across the back of his jersey is the name Cubbie and the No. 1. In place of a briefcase or laptop, he carries treats to give away as he walks around Principal Park. Dempsey is Cubbie Bear, the mascot of the Triple-A Iowa Cubs baseball team.

At a Sunday game on June 6, in the box seats near the third-base line, Dempsey – dressed as Cubbie – appeared. Within five minutes, 24 people – from ones just shy of three feet tall to those topping six feet – high-fived him, blew him kisses, hugged him, asked for his autograph and stopped to take a photo with him.

"You can't beat coming to work at a baseball park," the 24-year-old said.

Despite high humidity and a three-game losing streak, dubbed by team owner Michael Gartner as uncharacteristic, the park had larger than usual crowds. That

means that for three games, Dempsey had a seemingly difficult task– helping thousands of fans enjoy a team that has endured big losses (18-8, 19-4, 9-3 since June 8) while wearing a suit that feels 25 to 30 degrees hotter inside than it is outside.

The dew point that day was six percent higher than usual for the time of year, Iowa state climatologist Harry Hillaker said. Dempsey was so eager to take off the suit in an air-conditioned break room that he shed part of it during an interview. He needed a lot of water to stay hydrated, and breaks from the sun were a necessity.

In the break room Dempsey sat slouched in his chair with his bear belly stretched in front of him. His bear head sat off to his right side on the floor, his short blonde hair now revealed. He watched the game on a mounted television.

On his rounds, Dempsey, a native Des Moines, Iowan, visited all of the box seats, then made his way to the field before his big finale with the children: the running of the bases.

"Cubbie's coming," one child said to his mother as he leaned to see past her.

Not all the children were eager to see Cubbie. One cried and leaned away. Cubbie just waved from a distance.

"When you're far away they think you're the greatest thing ever," Dempsey said.

Dempsey is used to the different reactions. He meets all sorts of people as Cubbie. Although he is not allowed to speak while wearing the costume (a Cubbie rule) Dempsey has been in the presence of some well-known people while in character, he said.

He met two football players that he



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"They're always excited to see Cubbie," says Cubbie insider Mark Dempsey. Cubbie has the tasks of staying hydrated, meeting and greeting, and trying to entertain the entire family.

admired as a University of Iowa Hawkeye fan, Chad Greenway and Ed Hinkel. Dempsey also met baseball hall-of-famer Ferguson Jenkins early this month.

Still, Dempsey said the best part of the job has been getting to work with kids.

"They're always excited to see Cubbie," he said with a smile.

As Cubbie made his way through

Principal Park, children stopped him at every turn. Some, with mothers carrying cameras in tow, followed him. In such moments, he said, he knows he loves his job.

Nancy Kelsey, Little River Band of Ottawa, is a student at the University of Nebraska.



# A look behind the jumbo board

When there's a break in the action, interns keep the show going on the big screen

By JACQUELYNE TAURIANEN  
Staff Writer

**DES MOINES, Iowa** — At the start of his baseball career, Joe Madersky is not a household name.

Madersky, who is working on a degree from Grand View College, hopes to hit it big and make a career for himself. Unlike the players on the team, he will never have the opportunity to hit the ball out of the park for a winning grand slam or feel regret when it falls short.

Madersky works for the in-house production studio in Principal Park. The department consists of 12 interns, who come from colleges throughout Iowa. Four operate cameras during the game, while the others work in the production room. They are responsible for the audio and video that can be seen in the park skyboxes and on concession stand TVs and the Internet. The interns work to ensure that fans have the best game-day experience, said Scott Sailor, in-house television manager.

"I love sports and I am going to school for broadcast and mass communication," Madersky said. "This job is perfect for me."

To get fans excited, the production crew plays music and video clips to urge spectators to cheer, have fun and participate. Fans get a chance to appear on the jumbo display board.

"The job is a lot more fun and (it) is easier to get the crowd excited when the team is winning, but either way it is our job to get the fans involved in the game," Sailor said.

The production department for the Iowa Cubs, a Triple-A minor league team, assembles and edits the live feed the interns pick up from four cameras around the park. Each intern has the opportunity to work with the eight units, including audio, editing, directing and production.



Nine-year-old Dalton of Oskaloosa, Iowa, watches the Cubs vs. Zephyrs game.

JASA SANTOS ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"This is many internships in one," said Megan Peterson, 21, of Drake University. "I like it because you get all the experiences while only working at one location."

The students come into the job with classroom experience, but the equipment is different from what they are used to, Sailor said.

"That is why a game in the middle or end of the season will be better than their first," he said. "They're learning as they go."

Students are responsible for gathering the footage and putting it in the correct sequence. Sailor has a hands-off approach to managing and says the system works better if he allows the interns to work and steps in only to correct errors.

"Interns are vital for operation," Sailor said. "They put in a ton of work and make the day a success."

The job requires a lot of time from the interns. They work about 100 events, including Cubs games and high school games at Principal Park.

## Keeping Score

Mark Brown grabs a stack of numbers from a pegboard and carefully drops them into drawers.

He slides the number into the lips around the flap to keep it from falling onto the field.

"It doesn't take a lot of education to flip the numbers," said Brown, an accountant in Des Moines.

He changes numbers on the Iowa

Cubs scoreboard, he said, because it's fun hanging around the ballpark on game day.

The scoreboard behind center field at Principal Park is an important part of the atmosphere.

"We want them to enjoy the game when they are out here," said Brown, who's done the job for two years.

— Ellen M. Feuerhelm

"They work a lot of hours," Sailor said. "I just make sure that they're not getting burned out halfway through the season."

The interns don't seem to be complaining.

"I work in a TV studio during school, and this job is way better," Madersky said. "The people here are more fun and laid back. We have better hours, and there is something new every day."

There is a purpose to the fun, said 20-year-old Kyle Oppenhuizen, an Iowa State student.

"I know the skills I learn in this internship will open doors for me in the field later down the road," Oppenhuizen said. "The experience is a good one to have."

Jacquelyne Taurianen, Sault Ste. Marie, is a student at the University of Michigan

## Hitting the right notes

By ANDI MURPHY  
Staff Writer

**DES MOINES, Iowa** — Cheering from fans and the crack of the bat are not the only sounds you hear at an Iowa Cubs baseball game.

An assortment of music and sound effects "makes it a little more lively," said Destainey Warner, an employee at Principal Park.

At the end of each inning, alternative, techno, pop, rap and bluegrass music came from the speakers at the upper rim of the stadium.

Fans clapped in beat with Rednex's "Cotton-Eyed Joe" or Queen's "We will Rock You."

It's a "fun break when the team's not doing so good," said Darlene Dayton, a Cubs fan.

The music keeps everyone entertained and fills the silence between innings, said Kyle Oppenhuizen, 20, a team intern who attends Iowa State University.

Scott Sailor, director of logistics for the Cubs, said Oppenhuizen has up to 350 songs in the system and 250 to play for the audience.

Oppenhuizen was in charge of all music and sound for this game. He was settled in the third-floor press box, behind a laptop. A Soundcraft EQ board had cords going in and out with

knobs and switches for treble, bass and more.

It might seem like a complicated job, but it's fairly simple for the interns who work in the press box because they had training before season, Oppenhuizen said. They take turns playing the music and at other media stations set up in the press box.

The players can request their own introduction song, which is played as they step up to bat, Oppenhuizen said.

Different songs that reflected what was going on during the game.

Unk's "Walk It Out" or Ray Charles' "Hit The Road Jack" played as visiting players struck out.

The "Kiss Cam" zoomed in on couples while Sixpence None The Richer's "Kiss Me" played to set the mood.

Everyone had fun during the playing of The Champs' "Tequila" while four members of a Little League team danced in a competition.

Organ music brought an old American feel to the game as well.

As the Little League team led the way, the audience sang in unison: "Because it's one, two, three strikes you're out at the old ball game."

Andi Murphy, Navajo, is a student at New Mexico Highlands University.

## Battle scars at the ballpark

It's all fun and games until someone loses a finger

By SANDRA WHITE SHIELD  
Staff Writer

**DES MOINES, Iowa** — Go to the ballgame, give someone a finger.

Literally.

Sherryl Grubb, the Iowa Cubs' first-aid station attendant, said "finger amputation" is one of many injuries she has treated at Principal Park.

Grubb was on duty Sunday during the Cubs' game with the New Orleans Zephyrs when a man asked her to remove a tick—a "first-time-ever" request of her.

The most frequent injury is "being hit in the head with a baseball," she said, followed by "scrapes on elbows and knees. ... Ice packs and Band-Aids fix those."

Grubb, whose main job is at the Iowa Orthopaedic Center, said she has worked for the Iowa Cubs since 1993. She helps treat some injured ballplayers at the center.

Grubb said she has assisted some people who lost fingers while attending Cubs games. She explained how it happens:

People talk with their hands resting on the hinge end of heavy fire doors with their fingers between the door and the jam. Someone closes the door. Off come the fingers.

"Generally," she said, "it involves drinking."



PRINCELLA PARKER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sherryl Grubb, Iowa Cubs nurse, watches Jason Moen put a bandage on son, Jackson.

Sandra White Shield, Rosebud Lakota, is a student at Oglala Lakota College.





Max Epperly, 5, and his dad, Scott Epperly, 34, enjoy an afternoon of watching the Iowa Cubs v. New Orleans Zephyrs at Principal Park in Des Moines, Iowa. The Zephyrs won the game, 9-3.

MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# At your service

## Carol Jayne offers answers to Cubs fans' questions

BY JORDAN DRESSER  
Staff Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa—Walking up to the Principal Park information desk on a recent Sunday, a girl wearing an Iowa Cubs baseball hat asked, in a low voice, if this was where she could collect the photo of her throwing out the first pitch.

"Yes it is, and what is your name?" Carol Jayne said with an outstretched hand.

"Mary."  
"Well, Mary, here is your picture and I hope we made you happy today."

Dressed in red from head-to-toe, an Iowa Cubs baseball hat covering her grey hair and with gold earrings in the shape of baseballs, Jayne said she has made it a point for the past seven years to make every fan's visit to an Iowa Cubs home game a pleasant one.

"I'm here to serve the people," Jayne said. "I like people to have fun."

Throughout the day, Jayne receives visits from fellow employees, friends and fans

who stop by to see a familiar face.  
"Hi, Carol, how are you today?"  
"See you tomorrow, Carol."  
"Take care, Carol."  
"It's like our little social club here," Jayne said. "I take good care of my buddies."

Jayne said her daily duties at the information desk include: handing out the first-pitch photos; overseeing the lost and found; giving directions; and "listening to what people have to say."

After Jayne helps a few customers fill out raffle tickets for a chance to win a new lawn mower, a man dressed in white waves to her as he walks by.

"You take care, Robert," Jayne said.  
"I think a lot of people who are lonely stop by here. It's just kind of a comforting zone here," Jayne said.

Moments after Robert waved to Jayne, she said "I might be the only person he talks to, but that's OK with me. I don't mind."

The Des Moines native said her love of baseball and people is what makes going to work a constant joy. She began working

at Principal Park after deciding she needed a summer job when her main job at Drake University's ticket window goes on hiatus during the summer.

"You have to feel good with yourself and be happy in your heart, or else it will show to the fans," Jayne said.

One of the few times that she has missed work, she said, came when she was in the hospital because of food poisoning a few years back. As Jayne listened to the game from the hospital, she heard the announcer say why she missed work that day.

"I said, 'Did I just hear my name over the radio?' " Jayne said.

Keeping things the same, Jayne said, is what helps keep people happy. She said as long as she is able, she will continue to work every game and keep everything -- even the location of the raffle box -- the same.

"I'll do whatever it takes to make them happy," Jayne said. "It always starts with a good handshake."

Jordan Dresser, Northern Arapahoe, is a student at the University of Wyoming.



PRINCELLA PARKER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"I'm here to serve the people," Carol Jayne said. "I like people to have fun."

# An all-access pass

## Ramps and platform seating give disabled fans a way to enjoy games at Principal Park

BY SANDRA WHITE SHIELD  
Staff Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa—A 20-year fan has some advice for Iowa Cubs manager Buddy Bailey.

"Take out the pitcher when he gives up four runs in the first inning," said Scott Rahm, a senior at Grand View College.

Rahm attended Sunday's game with his father, Ted Rahm, and grandfather Myron Olson. They sat together in a section of Principal Park reserved for disabled people.

Scott Rahm has been a wheelchair-user all of his life because of cerebral palsy. He has attended Iowa Cubs games for 20 years, he said, and goes to about three games a year. Ted Rahm lives in nearby Grimes, and Olson drove in from Marion, 135 miles east of Des Moines.

Scott Rahm's posture changed whenever the Cubs got a hit; he clapped and yelled

excitedly for the home team. He was visibly disappointed at the end of the game, a 9-3 victory by the New Orleans Zephyrs.

Getting to the ballgames has not been difficult for Rahm. His father would just carry him into the games when he was a child. Now that the son is bigger and the father older, the Rahms benefit from the stadium's accessibility and special sections for disabled fans.

Usher, Jake Wager, said he has to give little assistance to disabled people. He said design features such as ramps and wide elevators helped.

Olson said he helped build the stadium as a contractor and first held season tickets in 1947, when the park opened. In the years since, he said, he has seen many improvements to the stadium.

The seats are now more comfortable. They used to be mostly old grandstand bleachers, he said. Crowd sizes have grown over the years, he said. A family section



PRINCELLA PARKER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scott Rahm, Myron Olson and Ted Rahm watch the Iowa Cubs game from wheelchair accessible seating.

has picnic tables to accommodate young children.

Principal Park has designated 14 handicapped sections, offering 61 spaces plus 61 companion seats, according to Troy Anderson of the ticket sales office.

"Handicapped seating is definitely

used at every game but rarely sold out," Anderson said. "It is definitely good that we have these seats. They are in demand."

Sandra White Shield, Rosebud Lakota, is a student at Oglala Lakota College.





Left: Riders bike toward Volin, S.D., during the second day of the Tour de Kota on June 11. The bikers traveled 71 miles from Vermillion to Lennox, the first in five trips covering 350 miles in South Dakota.

Below left: Christopher Nelson, 35, of Roseville, Calif., stretches at a campground in Vermillion.

Below: A bicyclist displays a participation patch received on the second day of the Tour de Kota.



MARTINA ROSE LEE ■  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



DEVIN WAGNER ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MARTINA ROSE LEE ■ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above right: Bikers get ready to leave Volin. The tour gives riders the chance to see South Dakota.

Above center: Riders pose before taking off for the first stretch of the tour on June 11. The tour allowed bikers to cover more than 475 miles, including two scenic routes around Vermillion.

Left: A bicyclist reaches Volin during the 71-mile trip to Lennox.

# On the road again

BY CANDACE BEGODY  
Staff Writer

VERMILLION, S.D. – It took the helping hands of hundreds to get 820 registered bicyclists to hit the pavement June 10 for Tour de Kota 2007.

For one night on the grounds of the armory near Barstow Park, men and women, young and old, from around the nation camped for a night. Each rider was to leave the next morning to pedal 50 to 100 miles a day on a 425-mile, seven-day journey through the state’s small towns.

Other stops on the tour included Lennox, Dell Rapids, Madison, De Smet and Watertown.

The morning was chilly with a breeze that fluttered dozens of flags attached to fences surrounding the park. The flags represented states, tribes and the country.

Riders began pedaling by the dozens about 6:45. Before each left, Kathy Vankley of Vermillion loaded their duffel bags into one of two trucks.

Filled with tents, sleeping bags, clothes and anything else a rider might need, the bags were driven to the next campsite to await their owners’ arrival.

Another volunteer stacked pancakes on paper plates as the Lions Club offered riders breakfast.

“We served well over a thousand pancakes,” said the club’s Marion Kryger, wearing a yellow apron spattered with batter.

To warm the grills and make pancakes and enough coffee, Kryger said he set his alarm clock for 3 a.m. to beat the 5 a.m. serving time. “We were ready to go by 4:30,” he said.

Chad Pickard was on hand to offer his expertise on the nuts and bolts of bicycles and to ensure a smooth ride.

Pickard, who owns Spoke-N-Sport, a bike shop in Sioux Falls, outfitted his 1996 Buick Roadmaster with an equipment trailer so it could act as a sag wagon, patrolling the route and providing riders roadside assistance.

Pickard would look for riders grounded along the route, he said, hoping to “uplift spirits” while dealing with “flat tires, broken spokes, handlebar plugs,” however small or big the repair.

By 7:45 a.m., the area around the armory and park was hushed.

A few riders lingered. Vankley sat quietly on a truck tailgate. Grills cooled, and the pancakes were gone. But Roadmaster Man was on the move.

*Candace Begody, Navajo, is a student at the University of Arizona.*